

NEWS

in brief

Two-thirds of claims linked to Swiss accounts

Two-thirds of people who have filed claims for dormant Holocaust-era accounts at Swiss banks have already been confirmed as apparently having rights to the money, an international panel said yesterday.

But the American chairman of the independent committee supervising the return of the assets of Nazi victims said the process is going slower than he would like. "I am as impatient and frustrated as other people, but this is the nature of the problem," said Paul Volcker.

Some 6,600 claims have been filed, Volcker said. Of those, 4,500 have been confirmed as authentic. AP

Kohl's foes seek probe of neo-Nazis in military

Keeping up pressure on Germany's battered defense minister, opposition parties yesterday demanded a wide-ranging parliamentary probe into rightist extremism in the military. Lawmakers from the Social Democrats and the environmentalist Greens said the inquiry, due to start January 14, should look beyond a 1995 speech by convicted neo-Nazi terrorist Manfred Roeder at a military academy that triggered the probe. Fearing an election year embarrassment, Kohl's forces plan to negotiate with the opposition to limit the inquiry to the Roeder case. AP

Tired Papon attacks prosecution

At his trial yesterday, Maurice Papon, chief police inspector of Bordeaux during World War II, lashed out at prosecutors as they asked about his alleged role in a July 1942 roundup of Jews. "Acquit Bousquet, condemn Papon; you'd be happy with that!" he cried out. Rene Bousquet was France's chief of police during the war. He was killed on the eve of his war crimes trial in 1993.

Papon is the highest-ranking official of the pro-Nazi Vichy regime to stand trial for crimes against humanity.

He remained silent when Prosecutor Marc Robert asked why he went beyond Nazi orders and arrested Hungarian, Greek and Turkish Jews. AP

Teenager could be paralyzed from glue sniffing

A teenager in the North who was seriously injured by sniffing glue may suffer some permanent paralysis, Israel Radio reported last night.

Haifa district police spokesman Supt. Moshe Nisan said the 16-year-old boy was admitted to Bnai Zion Hospital (Rothschild) Monday night with breathing difficulties. Nisan said police are trying to combat glue-sniffing by giving talks at schools about its dangers. David Rudge

PA postpones census

Palestinian officials said yesterday they are postponing the census due to the reluctance of east Jerusalem residents to take part and interference from the Israeli government. At a press conference in Ramallah yesterday, PA Minister for Jerusalem Affairs Faisal Hussein said east Jerusalem residents fear Israeli retribution for participating in the census. The census is necessary in order to make plans for the future, he said, especially when Jerusalem becomes the capital of the Palestinian state. Hussein did not rule out the possibility of another body carrying out the census, noting that a census taken in 1996 was carried out by a private college. Margot Dudkevitch and Mohammed Najib

Livnat on way to meet Pollard

Communications Minister Limor Livnat is traveling to North Carolina today to meet with Jonathan Pollard, who is serving a life sentence in a federal prison for spying for Israel. Last month, Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein became the first minister to meet with Pollard.

Although Pollard engaged in a rogue operation, Livnat said, he is now an Israeli citizen and, after 12 years in an American prison, he should be freed. Marilyn Henry

3 settler leaders: We'll topple gov't

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Outraged and bewildered settlers yesterday attempted to digest the possibility of scores of their communities becoming isolated or falling under partial Palestinian control if the government implements Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's security interest map.

Some settler leaders threatened to topple the government, if Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu accedes to US pressure and agrees to go ahead with a further withdrawal without demanding Palestinian reciprocity.

During an emergency meeting of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza last night, chairman Pinhas Wallerstein, head of the Binyamin Regional Council, Beit El council head Uri Ariel, and Amans director-general Ze'ev Hever declared that if Netanyahu bows to US pressure, they will act to topple the government.

Council director-general Aharon Dornb stressed that the three were acting individually and not as council representatives.

In response to their announcement, Likud spokeswoman Ronit Eckstein said: "A group of residents of Judea and Samaria, by their actions against the Shamir government, contributed greatly to

the rise to power of the Labor government, and thus to the Oslo Accords. It's a shame that the issuers of this announcement haven't learned the bitter lesson of the results of similar actions in the past, and are not supporting the government that ensures their existence and security."

Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel, standing in as council chairman, appealed for council members to remain united.

Settlers appeared concerned with the number of communities whose future status remains unclear. Communities reportedly threatened by the withdrawal include Elon Moreh, Itamar, Immanuel, Karmel Shomron, Eil, Shilo, Beit El, Kiryat Arba, Ofra, Beit Arye, and Nili. Other reports charged 12 to 25 communities would be affected by the proposed withdrawal.

Nili secretary Haviva Marco said she had been inundated with requests from residents seeking to clarify the situation. "People are panicking, no one understands what is happening," she said.

Beit Arye council head Yisrael Harush charged that the present situation is a muddled one, full of inaccuracies and speculation. "I am a Likudnik; I have met with Netanyahu and Mordechai and other government ministers, but no one seems to understand the situation, so how is the public expected to understand?"

Beit El's Ariel called the current withdrawal proposals grave. "Mordechai gave us all sorts of explanations on Monday, but when there are too many explanations it shows a weakness," he said. "Israel agreed to carry out three things when it signed the Hebron Accord: to withdraw from Hebron, to carry out the first withdrawal from other areas of Judea and Samaria, and to release terrorists. We carried out all of these. The Palestinians have not carried out, nor do they plan to carry out, any of their commitments."

Benny Katsover, of Elon Moreh, a member of the recently established Judea and Samaria action committee, charged that Netanyahu should not put the settlers to the test. "If the government does not honor its basic guarantees, there is no point in its continuing."

Liav Collins adds: MK Zvi Hendel (National Religious Party) said he is joining the three settler leaders' announcement that the government should be toppled if it hands territory over to Yasser Arafat without first ensuring the Palestinians have fulfilled all their obligations under the Hebron Accord, particularly extraditing wanted terrorists.

Clinton expects to meet PM soon

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - US President Bill Clinton yesterday defended himself against charges he had snubbed Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu last month. He said that Netanyahu need not meet any test in order to gain a meeting, but that as the peace process progresses, there will be more for them to talk about.

Clinton said he expects that they will meet again in early 1998. "I think the next time we meet, we'll have quite a meaty agenda, and we'll have something to talk about and something to do," Clinton told reporters. "I am not suggesting that there is some standard that the government or the prime minister has to meet in order to have a meeting, but I think that it will be a useful meeting and it's an appropriate thing to do."

In a year-end, 90-minute press conference, Clinton said that his five meetings with Netanyahu are more than he has held with any other world leader during the 18 months since Netanyahu assumed office, and that therefore, "there can be no serious suggestion that the US is not interested in the peace process or respectful of the people or government of Israel."

"I think it is important when the president meets on the peace process that there be some understanding of where we are and where we're going and what we're doing together. And I have always taken that position," Clinton said.

"I think the next time we meet, we are likely to have a productive meeting, because we'll have a lot to talk about because a lot of work has been done."

Clinton acknowledged that in advancing the peace process, there is a "lot of controversy" within the Netanyahu government, which he said is now "attempting to flesh out and define" its decision on the next IDF redeployment.

Clinton wrote a letter to the Conference of Presidents Saturday, reiterating American policy of an "unshakable commitment to Israel's security" and a pledge to facilitate peace talks "that enhance, not detract from Israel's security needs."

He responded to a letter from Conference leaders last week, which expressed concern over the administration's publicly-voiced differences with Netanyahu on

Livnat: US failed to keep promises

NEW YORK - The US government has failed to keep promises to the Jewish people, said Limor Livnat, communications minister, yesterday.

The US government is the state of the Jewish people, she said. "The Jewish people are not a religion, they are a nation," she said. "The US government has failed to keep promises to the Jewish people, and this is a serious matter."

Livnat said that the US government has failed to keep promises to the Jewish people, and this is a serious matter. She said that the US government has failed to keep promises to the Jewish people, and this is a serious matter.



Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani (left) meets with Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat at his Tel Aviv office yesterday. (Yael Somel/Israel Sun)

Arafat: PA will help cut car theft

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said yesterday that Palestinian Authority head Yasser Arafat had ordered his police to help Israeli authorities fight car theft.

Erekat spoke at a meeting in Tel Aviv with Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, also attended by the Palestinian Police commander for the West Bank area, Ziad Arif.

Officials said that about half the cars stolen in Israel end up in the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

Kahalani said after the meeting that some progress was made on forging cooperation to fight car theft, but he also alleged that Palestinian officials are continuing to drive stolen vehicles.

Kahalani also raised the issue of safe passages between Judea and Samaria and Gaza, and the status of the peace talks.

"We discussed the problem of the breach of faith that exists between Israel and the Palestinians and reached the conclusion that the only way to improve the situation is to construct a bridge based on mutual trust," Kahalani said.

He added that he had recommended that thousands of Palestinians be allowed to remain in Israel even when closures are imposed on Gaza.

Kahalani said the meeting was constructive and had opened new channels of cooperation with the Palestinians.

Erekat refused to answer questions about Israel's proposed withdrawal, saying only that the government "has not informed us by telephone or even by fax."

He added that he expected the government to "implement everything stipulated in the written agreement."

Bethlehem promises pilgrims a more religious Christmas

By PATRICIA GOLAN

Christmas Eve celebrations in Bethlehem this year may be less rowdy and more religious.

The two Christmas seasons since the Palestinian Authority took over control of the town in December 1995 were more nationalistic than religious in tone. But following complaints by the town's Christians and religious pilgrims who resented the street party atmosphere and rowdy behavior by Muslim youths, this Christmas Eve, visitors to Bethlehem's Manger Square will be screened by the Palestinian Police.

"We have planned that only those who are wishing and willing to pray will be present in the square this year," Bethlehem Mayor Hanna Nasser said yesterday at a news conference for the Foreign Press Association. "It's not a matter of keeping Muslims out," he insisted. "It's a question of leading the way and giving pilgrims a chance to attend Midnight Mass better than in other years. We're not going to ask anyone their religion."

The midnight mass at St. Catherine's, the Catholic church which abuts the Church of the Nativity, will be shown on a large TV screen on the square, and rows of chairs set up.

Meanwhile, preparations for the millennium have begun. Nasser said that as many as five million tourists are expected between now and the end of 2000, including one million Russian pilgrims.

Nasser said he doubts that Pope John Paul II would visit unless there is permanent settlement between Israel and the Palestinians that includes an agreement on Jerusalem.

"I myself do not advise the pope to come unless the political situation in east Jerusalem is solved," he said.

Nasser stressed that he is not discouraging leaders of other churches from visiting, but "the Vatican is a state. You cannot compare any other religious leader with the Holy See." The Vatican, he pointed out, does not accept Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem.

'Iraq crisis could flare up again'

By LIAT COLLINS

The Iraqi crisis could flare up again since UN supervisors continue to be denied access to all weapons sites, a senior military intelligence officer told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

According to an official briefing, the officer noted that Syrian President Hafez Assad has visited Iran twice this year. Assad continues to describe Israel as a threat to the Arab world and calls on Arab countries to stop normalization with it. Assad, however, still favors the diplomatic-political option, according to intelligence assessments.

The committee also heard a report from Deputy Chief of General Staff Shaul Mofaz on the IDF budget and work plan. He said that the budget has been decreased and that NIS 1.5 to NIS 2 billion is lacking. Mofaz said he is concerned about the long-term implications of budget cuts.

SHARON

Continued from Page 1

"It is too bad that you are running to the Americans before we have had a chance to close matters among ourselves," he said.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai announced that he has made some "slight changes" in the IDF map, allowing the inclusion of more settlements and keeping an additional one percent of territory under IDF control.

"I see that the pressure generated by the settlers helped," Sharon said. Communications Minister Limor Livnat, who is in the US, notified the cabinet that she opposes the map proposed by Mordechai and the military.

Levy suggested that instead of bringing maps to the meeting with Albright, Netanyahu would be better advised to take along a copy of the Hebron Agreement for her to sign. He noted that the document is signed by former secretary of state Warren Christopher, and contended that if Albright added her signature, she would begin to grasp the vital security considera-

tions entailed in the redeployment.

Liav Collins adds: The Labor and Third Way Knesset factions agreed to act as a counterbalance to pressures by the Land of Israel Front and other right-wing MKs.

Third Way whip Yehuda Harel said that the further redeployment should be a step toward separation between Israel and the Palestinians, while preserving security areas and settlement blocs.

MKS from both parties expressed concern at what they said is a trend towards making concessions in the Judean Desert and Jordan Valley, while staying in areas densely populated by Palestinians.

Liav adds: Yisrael Ba'aliya MK Roman Brodman gave Netanyahu a letter of support signed by 21 coalition members, from Yisrael Ba'aliya, Shas, Gesher, and the Likud.

Brodman and fellow party MK Tzvi Weinberg are to travel to Greece today to meet with members of Patah and the Palestinian Legislative Council. Members of Shas and Gesher are expected to join them.

PA antisemitism documented by GPO

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The Palestinian news media and Palestinian Authority officials were accused of making antisemitic statements, many of them based on Nazi propaganda, in a special report issued by the Government Press Office yesterday.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is considering submitting the 12-page document to US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright at their meeting in Paris tomorrow morning.

Referring to the instances in which Palestinians compared Israel to the Nazis and Fascists and denied the Holocaust, Netanyahu said: "These are violations of the Oslo Accords, which call for an end to hostile propaganda." He called for an immediate end to such diatribes.

Asked whether he will take the issue up with Albright, he said, "We have to check the mechanism" for that.

The GPO report charges that the Palestinians make frequent references to the historically discredited *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, publish tales of "Jewish plots" and "Jewish fangs," and depict Jews as power-hungry people "instigating after-moyn."

A PA Information Ministry press release issued on December 10 and included in the GPO document states: "Israeli practices in many aspects are equal with, if not more brutal than, those practiced by occupying Nazi soldiers during World War II." An article published in the PA's official newspaper, *al-Hayat al-Jadeida*, on November 30 says: "Netanyahu's plan completely matches the foundations of the greater Zionist plan which is organized according to specific stages that were determined when the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* were composed."

With deep sorrow we mourn the passing of

PNINA SCHWARTZ

Eddie Schwartz and family
Sara and Ivor Wainstein and family

The funeral will take place today, Wednesday, December 17, at 3:00 p.m. at the Savoyon cemetery.

The Board of Directors and Staff of the Masorti Movement in Israel mourn the passing of

NEIL NORRY

Chairman, Council of Trustees of the Masorti Foundation for Conservative Judaism in Israel

Heartfelt condolences to Sharon Norry and family

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Boris Geller, Superintendent, the Israel Police, will address the Club.

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Nadia Matar interviews

Prof. Yermiyahu Branover - Professor of Physics, Ben-Gurion University, Candidate for President of Israel

Moshe Feiglin - a leader of Zu Artzeinu

Tonight, Wednesday, December 17, at 9:00 p.m. Arutz 7 - English Program, 97.3 FM Radio*

* This new hour-long program in English of "Women in Green" will be broadcast every Wednesday at 9:00 p.m.

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Handwritten text in Arabic script: "الله اعلم" (Allah knows best)

Pinhasi gets suspended sentence

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Shas MK Rafael Pinhasi was sentenced yesterday to a year's suspended sentence and fined NIS 20,000 after pleading guilty to charges of conspiracy and making a false declaration to the state comptroller regarding election campaigns.

Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court Judge Amiram Binyamini thus honored a plea bargain reached December 10, under which additional charges of keeping false corporate records, attempted fraud, and conspiring to commit a crime were dropped.

Binyamini said that in passing sentence, he had considered punishments given others for the episode, involving violations of the Party Funding Law in the 1988 Knesset elections and the local authorities elections in 1989.

The others, Yehezkel Eshayek, a former Shas secretary-general, received a 10-month suspended sentence and was fined NIS 17,500, and Shmuel David, a former Shas liaison, received a term

of public service.

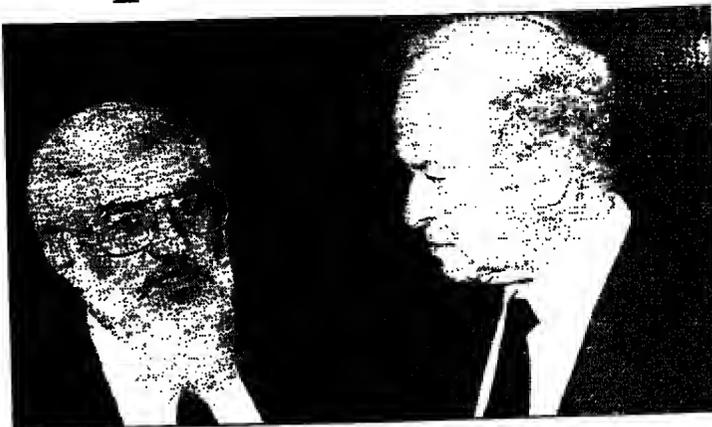
Pinhasi, Eshayek and David were convicted of paying yeshiva students to work in the campaigns without recording their earnings or reporting them to the state comptroller. Their failure to report enabled the youths to avoid the draft despite the fact that they were working instead of studying.

Binyamini said that Pinhasi did not benefit personally from the funds involved, and that he had already been punished publicly by being unable to serve as a minister or deputy minister while under indictment.

Reacting to the sentence, Pinhasi said: "I feel fine. I agreed to the plea bargain to keep my family from having to suffer more than it already has for many months."

Pinhasi also maintained that other parties also failed to report all their actions to the comptroller.

The Movement for Quality Government protested the verdict as favoring a public figure, and said it planned to appeal to the



Shas MK Rafael Pinhasi (l) stands with his lawyer Aharon Shlanger in court yesterday. (Israel Sun)

Supreme Court.

"There was no equality before the law," shown in the case, a spokesman said. "Pinhasi was

convicted of a felony but was merely given a suspended sentence. The plea bargain was upheld

earlier yesterday by Justice Tova Strassberg-Cohen who rejected the movement's petition to issue an injunction to delay the verdict.

Tension mounting over World Likud delegates' list

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Tension is mounting in the Likud over Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's refusal to endorse the new list of delegates for the World Likud Convention.

Sallai Meridor, whom Netanyahu had declared as his candidate for Jewish Agency chairman, yesterday urged the prime minister to endorse the list that ministers Limor Livnat and Yehoshua Matza prepared at Netanyahu's request.

Meridor's plea followed the Likud tribunal's ruling the previous day that a list of delegates for the WLC be presented within 48 hours. Unless Netanyahu endorses the new list, a previous list, which former Prime Minister's Office director-general Avigdor Lieberman submitted, will be accepted. Lieberman announced on Monday that he will run for chairman of the WLC against incumbent chairman Rouni Milo.

A storm erupted in the Likud when the first list was found to have been manipulated to give Lieberman a clear advantage over Milo. Netanyahu ordered a new list prepared, based on the original

one before it was altered, but so far is refusing to endorse it.

Netanyahu's failure to endorse the list is perceived in the Likud as cooperation with Lieberman in the power struggle against the party "princes" and "rebels," including Livnat, Milo, MKs Dan Meridor (brother to Sallai), Ze'ev Begin, Ehud Olmert and others.

Earlier this week Livnat presented the Likud tribunal with a sworn statement that the delegates' list to the WLC was distorted and changed, and that the second list of delegates was the "corrected" one ordered by the prime minister.

WLC legal advisor Yaakov Lerer warned Netanyahu he would summon him to testify before the Likud tribunal next week, unless the prime minister disqualify the first list and endorse the new one.

"The list's endorsement will be the test of whether Netanyahu is in control or whether his right hand doesn't know what the left is doing," a senior Likud source said.

Milo would not comment on the list affair, but sources close to him said he would decide whether to run for WLC chairman depending on which list is finally accepted.

Jewish journalists visit tunnel, Har Homa

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Several dozen Jewish journalists from around the world saw the sites of headline-making news up close yesterday as they visited Har Homa and the Western Wall Tunnel in the opening afternoon of the Seventh International Conference of the Jewish Media.

Phyllis Singer of Cincinnati's *The American Israelite* said that going to Har Homa gave her a chance "to understand what all the brouhaha is all about."

"I think it was important for the international Jewish journalists to see it for themselves, and understand it, and hear the explanation of the connection and why the Palestinians want it," Singer added.

Mordechai Ben-Dat of Toronto, of *The Canadian Jewish News*, called the visit to the tunnel "a completely goose-bumpy experi-

ence, breathtaking in every sense of the word...one that is difficult to conceive in one's imagination, even after reading articles about it."

Conference participants today will hold a series of discussions, including one on "Respect for Dialogue - How Can We Live Together," which is expected to focus on religious pluralism and the proposed conversion bill.

This afternoon the journalists will hear speeches by Foreign Minister David Levy and Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav. The day ends with a festive ceremony entitled "Fifty Years of Israeli Achievement," featuring performances by singer Gali Atari, the Israel Navy Entertainment Troupe and a multi-media presentation.

Some 130 journalists are participating in the week-long conference, sponsored by the World Zionist Organization.

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RUSSIAN PRESS REVIEW

By YOSEF BEGUN

Citizens lose out

The general opinion of the Russian press regarding the recent strike was expressed by Ilan Kfir in *24 Hours*. "Amir Peretz claims 'I won.' Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman counters that 'the state has won the victory.'" Says Kfir, "I won't enter into this futile argument because I know exactly who has lost - we, the ordinary citizens of Israel."

George Mordel of *Vremya* writes, "The agreement between [former finance minister Avraham] Shohat and Peretz was handwritten on a sheet of yellow paper. It was not approved by the government; it was not voted on in the Knesset. Therefore, from the point of view of the lawyer Neeman and the Supreme Court, the paper is not valid. The chairman of the Histadrut, as well as of the Labor Party, know the value of the paper but keep insisting that the government fulfill the agreement."

Yuri Cohen writes in *Novosti Nedeli* that the real goal of the strike was to undermine Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's government. At the same time, Cohen points out the failure of the government to force the union leaders to carry out the court decision to end the strike. MK Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz), who writes regularly in *Vesti*, says the Histadrut's crucial mistake was to paralyze the air and seaports. Its second blunder was to defy the court order. The setting of such a precedent will have irreversible consequences.

Saraphobia

Vesti and *Novosti Nedeli* both mentioned that an article sharply criticizing the prime minister's wife appeared in *Yediot Aharonot*, but neither newspaper commented on it.

The weekly *Globus* devoted much space to the issue. Ilan Kfir writes, "The article in *Yediot Aharonot* is only the tip of the iceberg. The prime minister found himself in a predicament, but so did the entire nation. It is hard to believe that such a woman, through the prime minister, can influence the events in the country, but such is the case." Rivka Rabinovich of *Vremya* is of the same opinion. "It concerns us too, Mr. Netanyahu," she says. She reports that in a radio interview, Civil Service

Commissioner Shmuel Hollander discussed the problem of the rights and obligations of the wife of a prime minister. Says Rabinovich, "I hope it will be solved before the next scandal."

In the same newspaper, Zoya Klirskaya criticizes Netanyahu for sending the indignant letter to *Yediot* and cancelling his subscription. "The actions of an enraged husband make him look ridiculous. That is the greatest hazard for a major politician."

Says Leo Malinsky in *Nasha Strana*, "The article is shameful. Why didn't they write about the unbalanced wife of some surgeon, who has less influence on the work of her spouse? The fact that Sara threw a shoe at her husband will not affect the scope of the second stage of redeployment. The implication of this isolated publication is that if Bibi cannot manage his wife, he cannot manage the country. Leave Sara alone. Don't you already have your hands full with Bibi?"

Material world

The discussion in the Russian press about the future of the local textile industry was sparked by the decision to shut down textile factories in Nazareth Illit and Kfar Sava.

In interviews with Ganor and Shamir in *Novosti Nedeli* and with Alexander Auerbach in *Vesti*, industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said that the closure of the factories is a natural thing. "The conditions of the market economy in the modern world do not call for sequestration. The main principle is expediency. When an enterprise is not competitive, it must be closed down." Sharansky asserts that it is more profitable to invest in businesses that are interested in hi-tech and in upgrading their employees.

Yisrael Ba'aliya

Vesti published a report by Alex Pritsky about an alleged event in the Yisrael Ba'aliya party. He claims that Sharansky suggested that MKs Yuri Stern, Michael Nudelman, and another unnamed MK leave the party and set up an independent faction. No source was named. Pritsky says that Sharansky's press attaché, Stern, and MK Maria Solodkin deny the allegation.

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State liable for NIS 750m. in intifada damages - projection

By BATSHEVA TSUR

In the past six years, the state has paid close to NIS 100 million in damages for injuries sustained by innocent Palestinian victims of the intifada due to IDF activities. According to a Justice Ministry projection, it will be found liable for damages amounting to another NIS 750m. with respect to 873 suits currently before the courts and another 226 files being dealt with by the Defense Ministry.

This emerged during a meeting between Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and members of the Knesset Law Committee which is reviewing the bill on intifada-related injuries among Palestinian bystanders. The bill passed its first reading in the Knesset in July.

It defines the intifada as a violent, organized struggle against Israeli civilians and the military, thus limiting the culpability of the IDF and the state. According to a 1952 law, the state is not responsible for damages caused

by belligerent activities of the IDF.

The bill has met with opposition from civil rights groups here and abroad. They called on the MKs to oppose it and on the public to fax their disapproval to the Knesset Committee chairman Shaul Yahalom said that only one fax had been received since the groups' appeal in the Hebrew media.

In a statement, Amnesty International said the bill "threatens a victim's basic right to seek redress for past violations." Describing it as "a step backward," Amnesty said it is "an attempt by Israel to evade its international obligations."

"The bill was born out of a feeling on the part of the Defense Ministry that the courts would be flooded by retroactive compensation requests. There has grown up an industry for fictitious damage suits," Hanegbi told the committee, describing how lawyers sent forms to "victims" who sometimes were not aware that they had

"applied" for "redress."

The number of applications is growing constantly, he said. Because so much time has elapsed, it is impossible to check out the facts.

Hanegbi said that ministry officials had rechecked the bill "with a magnifying glass and with heavy hearts" to make it more lenient. "We wanted to bring a law to the Knesset which satisfied us from the moral point of view."

Only last week, NIS 200,000 in compensation "to a wanted man who has blood on his hands" was ordered by the court, said Victor Bar-Gil, of the Defense Ministry.

"Why don't you simply admit this is a problematic bill instead of passing it off as something good?" asked Dedi Zucker (Meretz). "You are trying to pass a special law for Mohammed. Even the British in India did not have separate laws for natives... This smells of racism."

High Court delays IDF deferment decision

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

A High Court of Justice tribunal, hearing a petition to limit the number of draft deferments given for religious reasons, decided yesterday that the case was so significant that the size of the bench needs to be increased to include more Supreme Court justices.

The petition was filed by Meretz MKs Amnon Rubenstein and Haim Oron, who claim that the number of Israelis granted deferment from military service has steadily climbed and could soon equal 10 percent of the population eligible for the draft. They are seeking a "reasonable" ceiling of around 3-4%.

The petitioners' attorney, Ra'anan Har

Zahav, told the court that the increased burden on those who do serve was a blow to equality and was ultimately a reason for a drop in motivation.

But attorney Uzi Fogelman, representing the state, said that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai claimed the number of deferments had not harmed the state and the procedure should be left as is and no limits imposed.

"Quite frankly we think that this position is tainted by political considerations," Rubenstein said. "Mordechai should be more courageous."

Mishael Cheshin, one of the three justices hearing the case, said that the time has come to take the decision of whether one is drafted

from the hands of the yeshiva students and give it to the IDF. Following deliberations, the justices decided to increase the number of justices hearing the petition. No date has yet been set for a new hearing.

"This indicates that the Supreme Court thinks it's an important issue and not a mere quibble," Rubenstein said. "We see that they don't regard it as a marginal thing."

Oron said senior IDF manpower officers told him that the army was lacking personnel. According to Oron, drafting yeshiva students could help solve some of the IDF's manpower problems.

The IDF Spokesman refused to comment on the hearing.

Knesset discusses tolerance and unity

By LIAT COLLINS

As MKs entered the Knesset yesterday morning they were given a red carnation to mark the day's events which were dedicated to the theme of tolerance and national reconciliation. By the special plenum session in the afternoon, the flowers were beginning to wilt and MKs showed less interest.

Only a small number of legislators turned up for the debate, the coalition seats being noticeably empty.

"We are entering the most difficult period of the peace process, the easy part is behind us," said Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. "We are obliged to mold the nature, character and security of the State of Israel for the coming generations. We have already learned that we cannot take such fateful decisions on war and peace without the broadest support possible of the people. And that is our aim, to achieve such support, to achieve such understanding."

"Unity is not uniformity," said Labor leader Ehud Barak. "Unity is the understanding that despite the differences among us as indi-

viduals and groups, the goals unite us and the fact that we are Israeli citizens with a common fate unites us.

"At the outset of the difficult decisions ahead of us, we must stand together, hand-in-hand, in the face of the extremists on the margins of Israeli society who are prepared to raise their fists against democracy and destroy it from within."

Barak urged the formation of a team under a former justice that would draw up a code of ethics for Knesset debates.

Several speakers noted that the Second Temple was said to have fallen because of blind hatred.

Yisrael Ba'aliya's Zvi Weinberg said decency covered other aspects of life besides politics, and should include allowing drivers to get ahead of you in traffic, allowing a person to finish a sentence and accepting personal responsibility.

The session was initiated by MK Rafi Edri (Labor), who heads the Knesset Forum of Goodwill. Also in attendance were President Ezer Weizman, his wife Reuma, State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau and other dignitaries.

Wolves attack cattle on Golan

By DAVID RUDGE

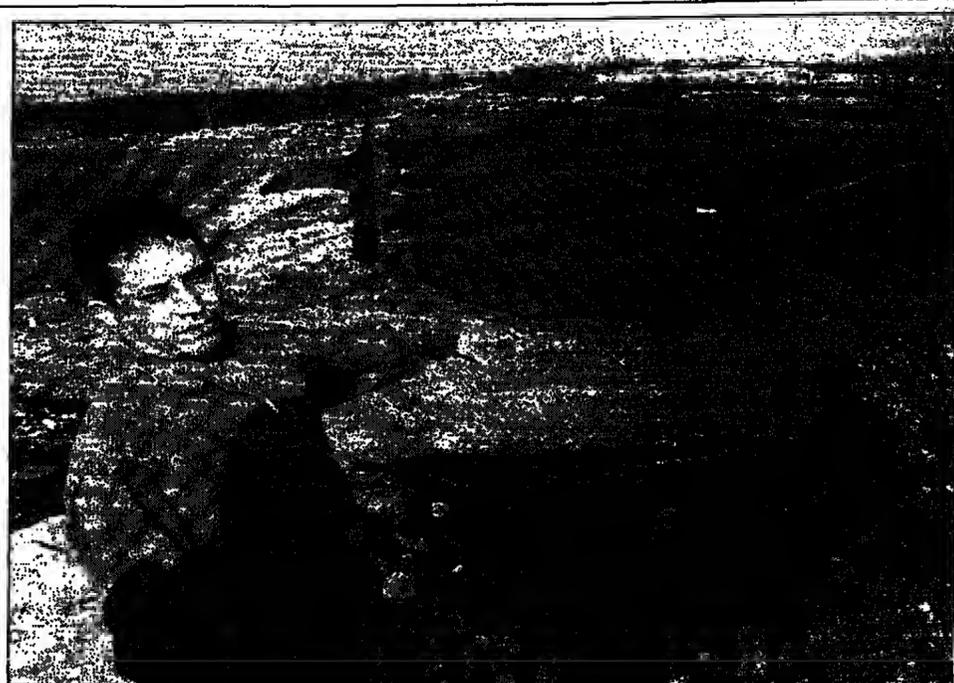
A pack of wolves crept into a cattle shed on the outskirts of Moshav Keshet on the Golan Heights late Monday night and devoured a calf.

The Nature Reserves Authority (NRA) issued a calming note last night, saying that it is unlikely the wolves are rabid. The problem of wolves attacking sheep and calves, however, has been causing a headache for both breeders and environmentalists.

Wolves are classified as an endangered species and are protected by law. Breeders are loathe to harm them, but are anxious to protect their herds.

NRA spokeswoman Dina Weinstein stressed that the incident did not occur within the moshav, but in a cattle shed nearby, and that only four wolves were involved.

She said the authority is trying to help the breeders to cope, without harming the animals. Recommended methods include enclosing grazing areas with electric fences and having dogs to guard herds, pens, and cattle sheds.



Hiriya dump collapses
A worker points to the section of the Hiriya dump which collapsed yesterday, blocking Nahal Ayalon. Environment Ministry director-general Nehama Ronen said that if the rain continues, nearby settlements and parts of Ben-Gurion Airport may be flooded, and that garbage may wash into Tel Aviv, then into the sea.

MKs drum out their frustrations

By LIAT COLLINS

They were the drums of peace, not war, which sounded out in the Knesset yesterday. But they were enough to cause the Knesset Guard to coming running to see just what was going on outside the Labor and Social Affairs Committee room.

The drums were brought to the committee by three youths who wanted to demonstrate an unusual form of relaxation therapy and

getting rid of pent-up frustrations. Just as committee chairman Maxim Levy (Gesher) and Labor MK Sallah Tarif got into the rhythm of things, Labor MKs Avi Yeheskel and Amir Peretz came and joined them.

They were informed by the youths that sitting in a circle and drumming to the same beat could set off a process which could solve problems "at the individual, group, national and international level."

Levy remained unconvinced.

"The degree of frustration I've reached because of the situation of the development towns and the needy cannot be solved like this," he said. Nonetheless, he seemed reluctant to stop bashing the instrument.

Tarif decided there might be something to it. "It could be good for Arafat and Bibi because their hands shake anyway," he declared.

The group carried on trying to release some of their tension before the special session on tolerance and reconciliation. But the Knesset Guard decided the commotion was getting out of hand and told the kids to - beat it.

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In accordance with the instructions of the court, the public is invited to submit offers for the purchase of ownership rights in the property at 86-88 Rehov Herbert Samuel, Tel Aviv, known as parcel 4, block 6907 (hereinafter "the property for sale").

Purchase offers should be submitted to one of the offices given below not later than 12 noon on January 4, 1998 (hereinafter "last date of submission"). The bidder, including any of the sellers, must attach to his bid an unconditional bank guarantee linked to the US dollar in an amount equal to 5% of the offer, valid for at least four months from the last date of submission. If so requested by the sales executors, the bidders will be obligated to extend the validity of the guarantee. The guarantee will be forfeited to the sellers if the bidder retracts his proposal either before or after the purchaser has been selected. The bids will remain in force until after an agreement has been signed with the successful bidder. After acceptance of the winning bid and the court's agreement to the sale, the guarantees will be returned to the bidders (except for that of the winner).

The value for the property for sale has been assessed by a real estate evaluator as \$5,000,000 (five million dollars). The evaluators' statement of opinion can be obtained from the offices of the sales executors on payment of NIS 300 + VAT.

No bid below the above mentioned evaluation will be considered.

The sales executors reserve the right to negotiate with any of the bidders and/or any other third party, and/or to hold a contest between the bidders and/or some of them and/or between/with any other third party, at their sole discretion.

The sales executors do not undertake to accept the best bid and/or any other bid, and will be entitled not to sell the property or to sell it to a third party who is not one of the bidders, at their sole discretion.

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US Conservatives hint at differences with Reform in memo:

Register halachic conversions

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - The American Conservative movement, in a memo that alludes to its differences with its Reform counterpart, has called for the registration of all conversions in Israel that meet "halachic criteria." The Conservatives' memo came two weeks after the American Reform leadership issued a report in which it suggested that the Neeman Committee seek an administrative solution for conversions because the "model" for interdenominational compromise lacks the good will to succeed.

Unlike the Reform report, the Conservative memo said it did not want to set any "bottom line" conditions for the Neeman committee, which is charged with reaching a compromise on conversion by January 31. However, the memo said, "it would be impossible to accept any process that does not provide for the registration of all conversions in Israel that meet halachic criteria."

The memo, which was released this week, was written by the directors of the movement's rabbinical and congregational wings: Rabbi Joel Meyers of the Rabbinical Assembly, and Rabbi Jerome Epstein of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. They cautioned that although the Conservative movement in the Diaspora has a "vital role to play in the fight for pluralism, it is important to remember that we are, in fact, seeking recognition for our fellow Jews in the Masorti (Conservative) movement in Israel."

Sharansky backs Neeman proposal

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Israel must have a mutually acceptable definition of conversion to Judaism, Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky said yesterday. Sharansky was speaking at an international conference on Pluralism and Religious Liberty at the Notre Dame Center in Jerusalem, sponsored by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty. The Becket Fund, which is often opposed to such US Jewish groups as the American Jewish Congress and American Jewish Committee, has provided legal support for a wide range of issues in the US, including a New Jersey mayor who wanted to have both a hanukkah and a Christmas creche and a bus company which allowed a hassidic group to set up a *mezuzah*. Sharansky said that while he favored full freedom of religious expression for Jews and non-Jews, the issue of conversion was one which needed a political resolution. "We have to guarantee pluralism to every person, Jew, Christian or Moslem, and to every person who belongs to a different group within Judaism, but at the same time we must have a common political denominator of who is Jewish," Sharansky said.

He said the best possible solution is the Neeman Committee's proposal, which Sharansky described as one in which all streams of Judaism would teach prospective converts, but the conversion itself would take place under the auspices of the Chief Rabbinate. However, Rabbi David Rosen, Israel director of the ADL, predicted the Neeman Committee would not succeed in putting forward an acceptable proposal, because most of those in the rabbinical establishment were unwilling to relinquish their monopoly. Rosen noted that Sharansky had said he did not believe the new Russian law recognizing only a few official religious groups would survive, because the human spirit could not be suppressed. However, Rosen said, this same principle would serve to break the Chief Rabbinate's monopoly in Israel.

The Israeli-American distinction seemed especially significant, in part, because the differences between Israeli and American practices have sown confusion among the Conservative rabbis and laity about their alliance with Reform, Meyers said. The Conservative movement has had to explain why it advocates that Israel accept practices that it finds untenable. It does not routinely accept Reform conversions, which tend to be viewed as "incomplete," and does not accept the Reform doctrine of patrilineal descent. "The issue is not so much practice as openness to different practices," Meyers said.

Teachers step up sanctions today

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Teachers' sanctions will be widened today as the Secondary School Teachers Association joins the Histadrut Teachers Union in preventing extracurricular activities.

The association is to resume the sanctions it had suspended last month for a three-week period, during which it had hoped a deal could be worked out with the Treasury relating to payment for work done outside the schools, such as accompanying school trips, and on principals' wages. Those pupils who left on school trips earlier this week were to be brought back to school last night if no solution was found.

The teachers will not permit any after-school cultural activities either in or out of schools. School principals are also to cut contacts with the ministry on pedagogic and administrative matters. Principals and teachers have also been instructed not to cooperate with ministry inspectors, counselors or other ministry representatives.

Yesterday, school trips and cultural events in elementary schools and some junior high and high schools did not take place as the Histadrut Teachers Union imposed sanctions. Teachers also refrained from participating in teachers' meetings and meetings with parents. A spokeswoman for the association said there was currently "no contact" with the Finance Ministry about the dispute.

"If there was any kind of contact, we wouldn't put a time limit on the talks. But since nothing is happening, we're renewing the sanctions," she said. She said that even though the Knesset Education Committee had thrown its support behind the teachers' demands, "the Finance Ministry apparently just isn't ready to give us more at this point."



Social workers protest budget cuts

Social workers protest against plans to cut aid to troubled youth and other weak sectors in the 1998 budget at a demonstration opposite the Treasury yesterday. Hundreds of social workers from around the country showed up to protest, despite the pouring rain. The sign in front reads, 'Children are in danger! It's an embarrassment to the nation.'

Hammer suggests help for children of jobless

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer yesterday suggested asking the foundation that deals with unbequeathed estates (Keteo Ha'izvono) to allocate funds to help pupils whose parents are unemployed. Education Ministry officials said that millions of shekels are needed for this purpose.

Ministry Director-General Ben Zion Dell said that there are thousands of pupils whose parents are unemployed and who are having trouble coping in school. "A family economic crisis also impacts directly on the children's education," he said.

He called on principals, home room teachers, and kindergarten teachers to be sensitive to the issue, and noted that it is forbidden to bar such children from school events if their parents cannot afford to pay.

He also noted that Hammer had stipulated that the level of unemployment in towns should be a major criteria for determining where the long school day, scheduled to begin on January 1, should be instituted first. The money from the foundation is to be used for lending books and school bags to needy children, to pay for summer camps, school trips and other activities. Meanwhile, the Knesset Education Committee discussed ways education could be used to combat poverty.

Accident results in warning about 'go-peds'

By JUDY SIEGEL

A 14-year-old was severely injured yesterday when his "go-ped," a motorized two-wheel scooter, was involved in a collision with a car. Doctors at the Schneider Children's Medical Center for Israel in Petah Tikva said that the young victim was rushed to the emergency room in a coma, with broken legs that needed surgery. The doctors said that go-peds, *korkinet* in Hebrew, are very dangerous when in traffic, as the driver is completely exposed to injury. Its gasoline motor allows it to reach speeds of up to 35 kilometers per hour.

Riding it requires much skill, as well as wearing a protective helmet, knee and elbow protectors, gloves, and sports shoes. Go-ped riders are not required to have a license. According to the hospital, the manufacturer warns against riding a go-ped in heavy traffic. "Therefore, there is no place for it on urban streets, the hospital spokeswoman said.

NEWS in brief

Gasoline prices drop

Gasoline prices dropped last night at midnight, and 96 octane oov costs NIS 3.31 a liter, down 0.9 percent, and 95 octane NIS 3.32 a liter, down 0.6%. Diesel fuel dropped 9.4% and heating oil costs 10.02% less. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Airbus offers to increase purchases in Israel

In an apparent last-minute effort to sway El Al, Airbus is considering increasing its commitment to buy equipment in Israel. John Leabey, Airbus marketing vice president, announced the move following a flying 12-hour visit yesterday. Haim Hacham, director of Teshet, which represents Airbus in Israel, said the company was seeking potential Israeli producers. The announcement came as the tension increased over El Al's choice for a \$200 million deal to acquire five additional medium-range aircraft, from either Airbus or Boeing, the company which has supplied all El Al aircraft in recent years. The El Al acquisition commission, headed by Amos Lapidot, is to make its recommendation shortly before the company's board is to meet tomorrow. *Haim Shapiro*

Schools spending up 3-4% a year

Despite all the talk about cuts in the Education Ministry Israel increased spending on schooling by 3-4% per capita each year between 1992-96. According to Central Bureau of Statistics data released yesterday, the increase was 5-6% a year between 1995-96. A comparison with other developed countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development shows that while in Israel school expenditures were 8.9% of gross domestic product, other countries averaged about 6.2%. Turkey was last on the list with 4.1%, while the US came in at 6.8%. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Compromise on burial still being sought

The High Court of Justice gave the Moslem and Jewish families of Shuakat Kuza, who died nearly two weeks ago but has not been buried, until tomorrow to work out a compromise on whether he will be interred as a Jew or a Moslem. Kuza, born a Moslem, lived for 30 years to a Jewish woman and converted three years ago to marry her. But soon after that, he left his Jewish wife without divorcing her, reverted to Islam, and married a Moslem woman. After he died, each woman demanded that he be buried according to her religion, and they took the case to the High Court. A compromise, whereby he would be buried in the Moslem cemetery in Haifa but right near the Jewish section, with two separate ceremonies, has not been finalized, apparently because of an unresolved monetary dispute. *Itim*

Court temporarily halts demolition of mosque

Lod Magistrate's Court yesterday issued a temporary injunction against the Lod Municipality and the regional planning commission to stop them from demolishing a new mosque in the Pardes Shnir quarter. According to Beduin's Rights Association chairman Nuri el-Okbi, the Moslems of the town, many of whom are Beduin from the Negev who were resettled by the government in the 1950s, had formerly prayed in a temporary structure. When this was replaced with the present modern building, the municipality and planning commission said it was illegal. The order is to remain in force until Monday, when the court is to hear the case. *Haim Shapiro*

Transport Ministry warns vehicle testing stations

The Transport Ministry warned yesterday that it intends to cancel the licenses of vehicle testing stations which passed vehicles that were not road-worthy. The warning comes in the wake of police findings that there are many such vehicles on the road. Ministry deputy director-general for traffic Zvi Yuzent yesterday asked Cmdr. Ya'acov Ganot, head of the police traffic division, to turn over his findings so that the offenders can be investigated. Ministry Director-General Nahum Langemal said that a new 25-person inspection team has been set up to keep watch over the testing stations. *Haim Shapiro*

Man emerges from coma, gets matriculation

Despite being classified as a "vegetable" for 18 months, Efraim Butrashvili, 25, a graduate of the Ashdod Comprehensive High School, has gained his matriculation certificate, with an average grade of 90. Butrashvili suffered severe injuries in a car accident while in 12th grade, in the midst of preparing for his matriculation exams. *Aryeh Dean Cohen and Judy Siegel*

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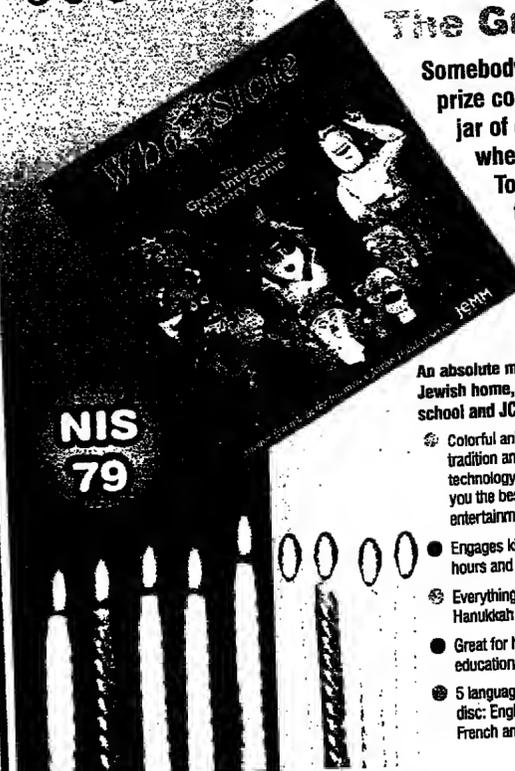
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Persian breeze in the Gulf

Iran has not made one single gesture to the West since the revolution, said Henry Kissinger recently. The gesture has come now, but what are we to make of it? It is no great surprise that the new president Mohammed Khatami wants to open a dialogue with the US. It has been clear from his May election victory that he is from a new breed of Iranian cleric appealing to an old type of Iranian voter - the one that wants more political, economic and cultural freedom.

Before last week's Islamic summit in Teheran, senior diplomats told us it would be a watershed for the Middle East. They said it would shift attention from the "New Middle East" concepts of an ossified peace process to a new balance of power in which Iran would play a weighty part.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

They were right. Although the final conference resolution surprised many experts with its consensual moderation, there remained an undercurrent of anger and bitterness among the Arab delegates for the failed peace process. While everyone was reasonably polite to Yasser Arafat, a brawl between Iranian security guards and his minders provided a little vignette of the contempt for the Palestinians in Iran.

Separate states

Apart from the obligatory swipe at Israel, the conference declaration made no mention of the peace process, despite heated debates on the issue, opting for Khatami's strategy of Islamic cooperation rather than confrontation. Notably absent from the cooperation formula was the Iranian domestic scene, the speeches by spiritual leader Ali Khamenei and Khatami could have been from two leaders of separate and radically opposed states. That delineates the battlefield for the future of Iranian foreign policy. Khatami has chosen to outflank the mullahs by going directly to Iran's once hostile Arab neighbors and to liberal opinion in Europe and the US. Of course, any gesture to Israel would be a step too far at this stage, but in the long term, and assuming the Khatami forces are victorious, such a mood change cannot be ruled out. Khatami's statement that while Iran is opposed to the peace process it will not take direct action against it, could be read as a hint to Israel rather than any gesture to the dead duck of Oslo.

Since his landslide election which shocked the mullahs from the Ayatollah Khomeini school of intangence, Khatami has clearly indicated his drift. Who would have believed an Iranian cleric would have the gall to travel the country on the back of a slogan for "Iran first, Islam second."

American lake

The slogan in action means Khatami believes international isolation is not good for his country. So he at once moved to improve relations with his neighbors across the Gulf.

Former president Ali Akbar Rafsanjani had made half-hearted efforts to do the same, but he had become weary after his years of battling the fundamentalists and his bid to sign a security pact with the Gulf Cooperation Council came to nothing. "Arab neighbors have no problems," Rafsanjani said. "The main obstacle is the United States and Britain." This curious attitude to the West is not simply hostile Islamic sloganeering; it reflects a mindset in post-revolutionary Iran based on its perception that the Gulf - formerly the Persian Gulf, remember - has become the American Gulf.

Whatever its regime, Iran has for most of history regarded itself as the dominant power in its region. It is right of course, no strategic equation can be calculated without taking account of that great unbroken Iranian coastline from the Shatt-al-Arab to the Strait of Hormuz.

Looking out from Iran's Bandar Abbas naval base through Iranian eyes, it would seem the Gulf - oil tanker alley - is run by the American Navy, aided by the British, and facilitated by a compliant GCC. It is not just the jealousy of a former power for the alien new order. Iran's entire economy depends on the Gulf - especially its oil and gas production and its shipping.

Up the creek

Toward the end of the Iran-Iraq War Iran was all but blocked by Iraq and the Americans because of its war attacks on tanker traffic. It may have been picturesque to see the giant Iranian sailing dhows unloading carpets, copper, spices, and pistachios in the creek of Dubai, but it brought home to the most casual observer that the importance of the Gulf to Iran is as ancient as the dhows and smugglers that run its coast.

This was a theme taken up by Ayatollah Khamenei in his hard-line speech to the conference - that US warships in the Gulf are "a major source of insecurity in the region." In that historic fight, Khatami's moderate language was all the more interesting. He called for more "accountability" from Khamenei's clerics, demanding performance before pety.

And while he also criticized the West he added: "We should never be oblivious to judicious acquisition of the positive accomplishments of the Western civil society." Imagine Ayatollah Khomeini saying that - or allowing it to be said.

By JOHN LANCASTER

TEHRAN, Iran — Four years ago, Iranian cultural authorities slapped a ban on the work of Tahmineh Milani, one of the country's best-known filmmakers. Her offense? A female character had appeared in one of her films without the traditional Moslem head scarf. The character was eight years old.

But things are looking up for Milani and, some say, for Iran. Last month, the Ministry of Islamic Guidance unexpectedly removed her from its list of banned artists, freeing her to resume her career.

"I am very optimistic," said Milani, 37, a stylish, outspoken woman who lives with her architect husband and their 18-month-old daughter in a high-rise apartment decorated with Persian carpets and abstract art. "I think people have more freedom of speech. They have more self-confidence." Expanded cultural freedom is perhaps the most striking example of how life in Iran is changing under President Mohammed Khatami, a moderate cleric who last May won a landslide victory over the candidate of the hard-line religious establishment that has ruled Iran since its 1979 Islamic revolution. Books have been unbanned, censorship eased, and licenses granted to newspapers and magazines whose publishers had previously been considered suspect.

In academic circles, there is even talk of the need for improved relations with the United States, which has no diplomatic ties with Iran and is still referred to in official news media here as "the global arrogance." One of the most vivid demonstrations of the new mood occurred last month when millions of Iranians poured into the streets of the capital to celebrate the upset World Cup-qualifying victory of the Iranian national soccer team over Australia.

As police looked on helplessly, young people danced in the streets, bonked their horns and blasted music from car stereos; some women even shed their mandatory head scarfs.

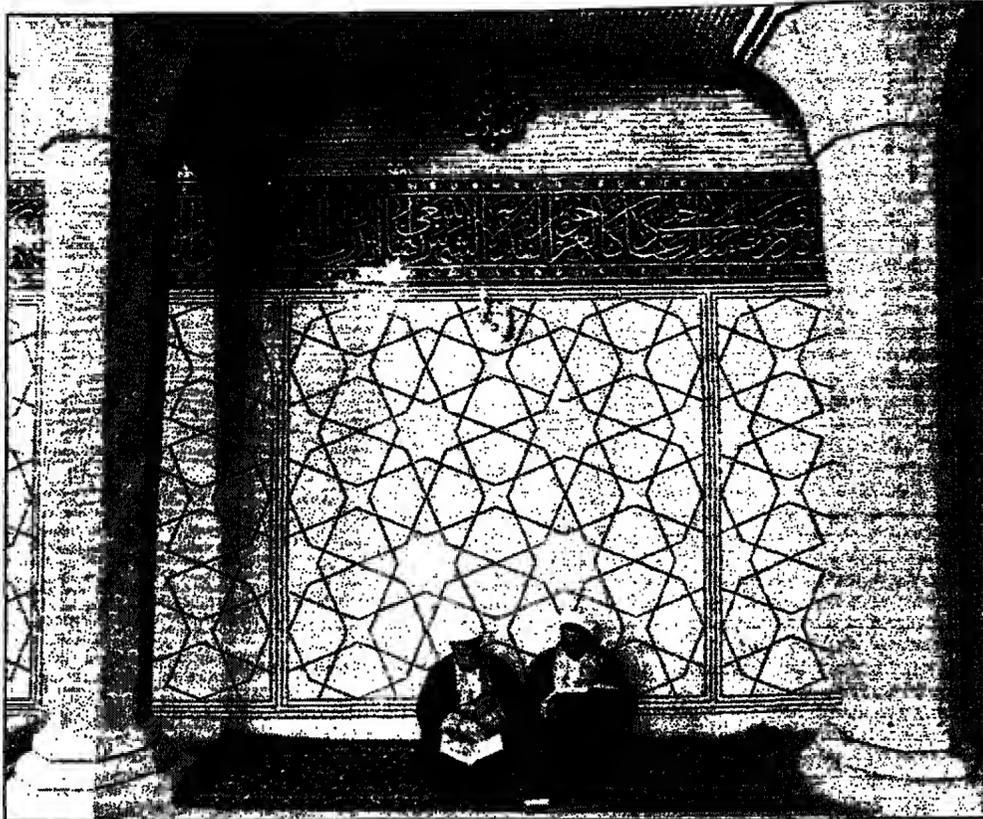
"This is what I call a soccer revolution," said a foreign diplomat who walked home that night through jubilant crowds. "All the streets were blocked with people...They have set the ball rolling for this closed society." But Iran's transformation is far from complete - and may yet be reversed.

By most reckonings, Khatami ranks third in the Iranian political hierarchy, behind former president Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who heads a powerful advisory council, and Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, an arch-conservative who is supreme spiritual leader and controls security services and foreign policy. Khatami's allies still hold sway in parliament, where they recently initiated the corruption trial of Tehran's popular mayor, Gholam Hossein Karabaschi, a skilled municipal manager and one of Khatami's closest political allies.

A backlash is also developing among the powerful volunteer

Iran's shaky glasnost

President Khatami's diplomatic moderation is coupled with a cultural liberalization which is anathema to hard-line clerics



Studying the Koran in the holy city of Qom. Iranians and foreigners wonder how much power Khatami really wields.

morality police known as *baseji*. Although chastened by Khatami's victory - attributed in part to his emphasis on the rule of law - the *baseji* have resumed their arbitrary ways, raiding mixed-sex parties and, in October, shutting down a folk concert in the city of Arak that had been sanctioned by the provincial government.

The deepening power struggle erupted into public view last Tuesday, when Khatami and Khamenei offered starkly contrasting views on relations between Islam and the West in opening speeches at a summit of leaders of Muslim states. Khamenei's speech was laced with anti-Western venom; Khatami called for dialogue and understanding.

Compounding Khatami's challenges are dire economic problems, including stagnant wages, rising prices and failure to produce jobs for a labor force that is growing at an estimated annual rate of 4.5 percent.

Given the high expectations that attended his unforeseen victory in May, Khatami's failure to curb the *baseji* and improve the material well-being of Iranians after 100 days in office has disappointed many supporters.

"I don't think he can do anything because he's one person against

everyone else," said a 21-year-old man in blue jeans and Doc Marten boots who identified himself only by the initials B.N. "And anyway," he added, "he's a mullah." B.N., who lives in affluent North Tehran and works for his father's textile company, was speaking outside a pizzeria that is a popular hangout for well-to-do young people - and, as such, a favorite target of the *baseji*.

He has reason to feel bitter. Last month, he said, he was arrested in a *baseji* raid on a private party, jailed for two days and then flogged with 40 lashes after a perfunctory trial.

"There were barely any drinks," he said. "No one was high. It was just music and boys and girls dancing." Given the pervasiveness of such complaints, it is easy to forget that the toppling of US-backed Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi in 1979 enjoyed broad public support. Many Iranians were outraged by the shah's disdain for traditional Shiite Muslim leaders and his eager embrace of Western culture. But clerical leaders' failure to solve the country's economic problems or to ease restrictions on personal freedom has generated public anger, especially among women and those too young to remember the revolution.

Their support was crucial to Khatami's success, and many continue to view him as a potential savior. That view was largely borne out in an afternoon of conversations recently with young people in Jamshideh Park as they strolled on stone footpaths that cling to a mountainside amid cedar groves and meticulously landscaped rock gardens.

Arezoou, 19, for example, resents conservative mullahs at Tehran University, where she studies computer science by default. She said her application to study education was turned down because she prefers to wear blue jeans and a knee-length overcoat rather than the billowy black robe, or *chador*, favored by the mullahs.

And although she acknowledges that little has changed since Khatami was elected, she said she has not given up hope. "Mr. Khatami is very popular among the students," she said. "We'll just have to wait and see... It takes time to implement." A companion, Gaelareh, 17, agreed. "He gets into our hearts," she said. "Yes, there will be change, but it takes a long time."

One factor that clearly works to Khatami's advantage is his effacing style. In contrast to Rafsanjani and Khamenei, he

eschews motorcades and has ordered that his picture not be displayed in government buildings. He travels widely in Iran, touring schools and supermarkets and talking over the heads of rival politicians in direct encounters with ordinary Iranians.

"It's curious, but people don't like to blame him," said Tehran University political scientist Sadiq Zibakalam.

For now, the biggest changes have occurred in the cultural sphere.

Novelist Mahmoud Doostabadi, for example, recently learned that his 10-volume epic, *Kelidar*, has been released for distribution after a four-year ban. Also slated to appear shortly in Iranian bookstores is a study of Western literature put out by the magazine *Kelk*. The previous government had refused to allow publication because it quoted allegedly pornographic work of D.H. Lawrence.

"They gave us permission," but they told us, "When you're publishing this book, just do it in a discreet manner," said Ali Debashti, 39, the magazine's editor in chief. "After the election, we can feel that the Iranian people have no more fear and that they can affect their own fate... We're very hopeful" (The Washington Post)

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Search on for huge meteor in Greenland

COPENHAGEN (AP) — Danish Air Force planes yesterday searched the vast white wastes of Greenland for traces of a huge meteor believed to have struck the ice-capped island.

The search was prompted by a giant flash that split the darkness about 5 a.m. on December 9. The flash was reported by three fishermen working off Greenland's east coast and a parking-lot surveillance camera in Nuuk, the territory's capital on the west coast, recorded a brief illumination at that time.

"According to the accounts, the flash was so huge that we have good reason to believe that this is a giant [meteor]," said Bjoern Franck Joergensen, of the Tycho Brahe Planetarium in Copenhagen.

Joergensen said it likely was "a one-piece, solid meteor" that crashed, adding most meteors explode or break up as they enter the atmosphere. Such rocks travel at more than 12,000 kilometers per hour.

Joergensen declined to speculate on how large the meteor may have been.

The search has been hampered by heavy snowfalls that could easily bury even a large meteor or obscure its crater. About 85 percent of Greenland is covered by a near-featureless ice cap.

Mandela slams whites in ANC farewell

MAFIKENG (Reuters) — President Nelson Mandela, the champion of racial reconciliation in South Africa, used a caustic farewell speech as ANC leader yesterday to lambast rich whites for clinging to their ill-gotten gains.

He told a conference of his African National Congress, which his deputy Thabo Mbeki is set to take over from him as party president, that the roughest patch in the struggle to knit black and white society together has yet to come.

Mandela said South Africa's transformation from apartheid to equality had just begun, and the strength of ugly resistance by those seeking "to maintain the privileges of the white minority" had not yet been fully tested.

"However, the desire to maintain these privileges has been demonstrated consistently," he told some 3,000 applauding delegates in the hot, historic city of Mafikeng in South Africa's northwest province, in one of his last major party speeches.

He said some whites thought "national reconciliation" meant compensating them for the loss of political power by guaranteeing their wealth and economic muscle.

Political observers said the tone of his farewell address — which party officials said represented the view of the ANC leadership as a whole — was surprising in its bitterness.

The 79-year-old former political prisoner, whom Mbeki is expected to succeed as state president too after elections in early 1999, attacked bastions of continued white dominance.

He said the apartheid leaders of



South African President Nelson Mandela (right) and his deputy, Thabo Mbeki, chat before a meeting of the African National Congress's fiftieth National Conference yesterday at Mafikeng. Mbeki is replacing Mandela as president of the ANC. (Reuters)

the old white regime had refused to cooperate with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The commission's work to heal the past had shown "the unwilling-

ness of white society in general — including white politicians, business, the judiciary, the media and the church — to explain its involvement in the maintenance and per-

petuation of the apartheid system and therefore its lack of readiness to make its own voluntary contribution to the creation of a truly non-racist and non-sexist democra-

cy." It had also shown "the difficulty of sensitizing the white minority to the simmering anger of the black majority and the latter to the per-

sisting fear of the future among the former."

Mandela branded the National Party, which installed apartheid in 1948 and dismantled it 40 years later under reformer F.W. de Klerk, a "party of white privilege" along with the smaller liberal Democratic Party.

He accused them of assuming apartheid was dead, and that a normal democracy had been achieved. He said South Africa's democracy was a newborn baby that still needed nursing.

Mandela, who will go down in history as the man who brought South Africa freedom in 1994 and then devoted himself to reconciling its races, said blacks now ran the government, but little had changed in society and the economy.

"A major and determined effort will have to be made by both the public and the private sectors to realize this objective of deracializing the economy," he said.

Mbeki, 55, is widely expected to shift the emphasis of government from reconciliation to transformation and to make tougher demands on white business to play their part.

Some nine percent of companies listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange are now black-run, up from none in 1990. But many ordinary blacks say this is window-dressing and has done little to improve their impoverished lives.

Mandela's maverick ex-wife Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, stepping up onto the stage to join other party leaders from whom she has become isolated, won a loud cheer from delegates who could still nominate her as future deputy party leader.

Turkey mulls retaliatory embargo against EU

By YALMAN ONARAN

ISTANBUL (AP) — Angered by the European Union's snub of its decade-old membership application, the Turkish government is considering an embargo against EU companies bidding for state tenders, Turkish newspapers said yesterday.

The EU is Turkey's largest trading partner, accounting for half its foreign commerce.

The embargo was not expected to affect private Turkish firms. But it would affect

incentive government contracts for big-ticket items like highways, power plants, arms, and aircraft.

"Political criteria are always used in state tenders," said Haluk Tukul, an economist with the Turkish Businessmen's Association. "The government is simply saying it will use such criteria to hurt the EU."

Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit was quoted by the daily *Sabah* as saying the embargo is an option. The daily *Hurriyet* also said the cabinet is considering cutting off EU companies from state contracts.

One cabinet member said the embargo is likely to be unofficial.

"If there's a tender conducted by my ministry, I will close the doors to European firms," State Minister Rifat Serdaroglu said, according to *Sabah*. "There is no official decision on an embargo, but these things are never decided officially anyway."

Sabah said state-owned Turkish Airlines had already taken a first step by freezing negotiations with the European consortium Airbus on buying three new planes worth \$330 million, *Sabah* said.

Turkey is angry because the EU last weekend excluded it from membership talks.

In response, Turkey has already rejected an invitation to a summit next year and accused the EU of being a "Christian club." The government also said it would stop discussing important political issues with the EU, such as the divided island of Cyprus.

The EU cited Turkey's human rights record, the presence of its troops on Cyprus, and its sour relations with Greece as obstacles to EU membership.

Pope calls abortion 'deadly anarchy'

By PHILIP MULLER

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) — Pope John Paul told the new US envoy to the Vatican yesterday that abortion was a "deadly anarchy" that risked subverting the concept of justice cherished by America's founding fathers.

In his first address to the new ambassador, 81-year-old Cardinal "Lindy" Boggs, the Polish pontiff did not shy away from the issue that has been among the most divisive between the Vatican and the administration of President Bill Clinton.

"The United States was founded on the conviction that an inalienable right to life was a self-evident moral truth, fidelity to which was a primary criterion of social justice," the pope told Boggs, who was presenting her credentials.

The country's moral history, the pope reminded Boggs, was aimed at allowing all Americans to enjoy the protection of law and the responsibilities of citizenship.

"Whenever a certain category of people — the unborn or the sick and old — are excluded from that protection, a deadly anarchy subverts the original understanding of justice," he said.

The Roman Catholic Church opposes abortion at any stage, teaching that life begins at the moment of conception.

The pope told Boggs, the oldest

ambassador ever to be accredited to the Vatican. "The credibility of the United States will depend more and more on its promotion of a genuine culture of life, and on a renewed commitment to building a world in which the weakest and most vulnerable are welcomed and protected."

Abortion is one of the most divisive moral issues in the United States, where "pro-choice" and "pro-life" advocates regularly confront each other outside abortion clinics and at demonstrations.

A low point in relations between the Vatican and the United States came in 1996 when the Vatican accused Clinton of shameful action for vetoing a ban on a type of late-term abortion known as "partial birth abortion."

It involves partially extracting a fetus from the womb, inserting a catheter in the skull and removing the brain before the fetus is taken out.

The pope told Boggs that the founding documents of the United States — a reference to the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights — contained self-evident truths built into human nature by God.

Boggs, a practicing Catholic whose looks belie her years, succeeds Raymond Flynn, a former Boston mayor who caused controversy in Washington because of his outspoken statements.

Getty Center opens to great fanfare

By TOM TUGEND

LOS ANGELES — The Getty Center was officially opened to the public yesterday, and not since the 1984 Olympic Games has Los Angeles reveled in so much positive (and non-Hollywoodian) press attention.

In the week preceding the opening of the museum and arts complex, which was planned and constructed over 13 years, some 800 journalists and TV crews, representing most major domestic and international outlets, wandered across the hilltop campus in marathon nine-hour press tours.

They duly noted the vital statistics: The \$1 billion price tag for the museum and five satellite institutes (which still leaves a cushion of \$4.5 billion), the 54 skylit galleries, the 295,000 blocks of travertine stone shipped from Italy for the construction, and the anticipated 1.3 million annual visitors.

Even native Angelenos were struck by the hilltop vista, stretching from the off-shore islands to the mountains and deserts.

Amidst general civic pride in the new cultural landmark, the Jewish community took quiet satisfaction

in the accomplishments of the two men most responsible for the Getty's creation, Harold M. Williams and Richard Meier, and their ties to Israel.

Williams, who became president of the J. Paul Getty Trust in 1981, is retiring from his post next month and joining the board of trustees at the Getty's Jewish neighbor, the Skirball Cultural Center and museum.

Despite their differences in scale and endowment, the Getty Center and the Skirball Cultural Center, which is affiliated with the Hebrew Union College, were fated by nature to work together as the southern and northern anchor of the same hilltop formation in the Santa Monica Mountains pass.

The connection was recognized by the Getty Trust over a decade ago, with a \$1 million grant to the Skirball during its early hard-scrabble fundraising efforts.

The SCC is the "senior" of the two institutions, having opened its doors 18 months ago, and could share some of its time-and-money consuming efforts in hillside stabilization and earthquake safety measures with its younger neighbor.

Williams will join two other

Getty directors as trustees of the Skirball, and "we will be able to learn much from his experience," said Dr. Uri Herscher, the SCC's founding president and chief executive officer.

Some joint ventures in exchanging visitors between the two museums seem a natural, and the Skirball has made an opening gesture by halving its admission price during the Getty's opening week.

A shuttle service between the two institutions has been discussed informally, said Herscher, but no formal decision has been made.

But to symbolize the kinship, at the Getty's official dedication on Saturday, Uri Herscher switched to his rabbinical persona and delivered the invocation.



A Belarus man cries out as he plunges into the freezing waters of Lake Komomolskoye in Minsk yesterday, where temperatures dropped to -25 degrees Centigrade. (Reuters)

Five people freeze to death in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — Five people died of hypothermia yesterday during one of Moscow's coldest December nights since the start of the century, and some 50 were hospitalized with frostbite, officials said.

Temperature in Moscow dropped to minus 28 C overnight — the coldest for December 16 since 1902, said Russian Weather Service spokeswoman Tatyana Zhemchugova.

On Moscow's outskirts and in the suburbs, temperatures ranged between minus 31 C and minus 34 C, weather service spokesman Anatoly Yakovlev said.

The number of frostbite victims last night was higher than in the entire previous week, when one person died and 31 were hospitalized, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported. More than 220 Muscovites were injured, slipping on the ice-covered sidewalks over the week.

But deputy head of Moscow city government Boris Nikolsky said the number of victims was relatively low for this city of 10 million peo-

ple, ITAR-Tass reported.

But contrary to earlier forecasts of further temperature plunges, the weather was expected to warm up, Zhemchugova said.

At the Moscow Zoo, administration has turned up the heating system and all animals were feeling fine, zoo spokeswoman Natalya Istratova said.

The coldest December night in Moscow was registered in 1992, when temperature reached minus 38 C on December 28, Zhemchugova said.

Hundreds of people die in Moscow each winter of hypothermia and drunkenness, which leaves them incapable of seeking shelter from the cold.

The cold from moving across Central Russia also bit the southern region of Rostov-on-Don, paralyzing the public transportation system.

In the Volga River city of Volgograd, more than 100 homes and several hospitals without heat in the minus 28 C weather after a breakdown at a heating station.

In northern Russia temperatures dropped to minus 45 C.

Cold weather began particularly early this year, with several snowfalls since mid-October and temperatures regularly below freezing.

RABIES

Continued from Page 1

About a third of cases are found to require vaccination — at \$800 per series of six shots.

Ministry director-general Prof. Gabi Barabash said yesterday that Israel imports more anti-rabies vaccine than the US (in actual numbers, not in proportion to population) and is having difficulty finding an adequate supply from manufacturers.

"We just brought in 800 sets yesterday," added Dr. Alex Levinthal, director of the public health department.

Barabash convened a press conference in his office yesterday, with representatives of the Agriculture Ministry's Veterinary Services and other Health Ministry officials. They urged the public to keep away from stray and wild animals, protect their pets from the disease and report any animal biting or scratching to

the nearest district health office. If bitten or scratched, it is wise to wash the wound immediately with soap and water to kill as many of the pathogens as possible.

The officials accused activists in animal protection organizations of partial responsibility for the rabies outbreak, saying that veterinarians were being intimidated by activists who complained to police about stray dogs being "put down."

"Police files have been opened against them, even though they are fulfilling their responsibility to public health and doing it humanely by injection," Agriculture Ministry director-general Danny Kreitchman said.

Benny Schlezinger, a founder of the Let the Animals Live group, said these complaints were "scandalous" and "an attempt to cover up for a failure to treat the problem properly."

Schlezinger also said that the veterinary services were acting more intensively in urban areas where the risk of rabies is low and less in rural areas and Arab vil-

lages where the risk is higher.

Although rabies is most often spread by wild animals, such as foxes, jackals and weasels, and then, in turn, by dogs, there have been cases of other animals being infected, such as cats and in one case, a pet hare. Any wild animal that appears in an urban area should be suspected of being rabid.

Areas most prone to rabid animals are the Golan, Galilee and Arava, but infected mammals have appeared throughout the country, Egyptian and Jordanian authorities were cooperating with Israel on rabies control, but the Palestinian Authority was not in contact with Israel on this issue.

Pet owners have no reason to panic but should make sure their dogs and cats are vaccinated, said Dr. Andre Menache, who heads Nosh, the Federation of Israeli Animal Welfare Groups.

"There is certainly no human epidemic," said Menache yesterday. "The problem is rabies among wildlife —ylvatic rabies — and not urban rabies."

GIL

Continued from Page 1

The charge sheet says that after Gil retired, he was brought back on a special contract and continued deceiving the Mossad, knowing the information he gave had a major effect on national security and that the intelligence community regarded it as highly important.

Gil intends to plead not guilty, according to his attorney Yigal Shapiro. He has admitted in his interrogation that he gave false information, but claims it was not information which could damage national security and denies he

had any intention to do so.

Shapiro will note that Gil was found to be telling the truth.

Meanwhile, the Knesset subcommittee on the secret services intends to summon Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to testify on the Gil affair.

Mossad head Danny Yatom, who testified before the committee this week, said the Mossad set up teams to probe the affair and its implications. He said the affair could have had severe results, because Gil's false reports indicated belligerent intentions on Syria's part, but they were often contradicted by other information.

BASKET

Continued from Page 1

He said he could not take it because it caused him liver problems. But he is a member of a group of patients demanding that Rilovec be supplied to patients that need it.

Dr. Yitzhak Berlovich, head of the ministry's medical services division, commented that he had begun to investigate, and that ALS patients — who require the drug should get it.

"We'll do all that we can to ensure that they get it," Berlovich said.

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Diary of a has-been

Once a notorious first lady and now a 68-year-old widow, Imelda Marcos is still a fascinating figure for most Filipinos

By DAVID LAMB

MANILA, Philippines — For a convicted felon facing 24 years in prison, Imelda Marcos seemed to have not a care in the world. Dressed like a queen, as effervescent as champagne, she laughed and chatted and hardly even noticed that her recreational vehicle had come to a standstill in Manila's umbra traffic.

At a worktable in the RV, she sketched a map of the world, making a point about global power shifts. She spoke about losing Vietnam to the Communists, her concern over China's growing influence — "the Chinese will boil you in your own fat," she says — and her admiration for late US president Richard Nixon.

Her conversation was sprinkled with such phrases as, "As I told Chairman Mao" or "I remember Churchill saying," as well as biblical references and homilies about love and beauty.

Imelda Marcos, the widow of Ferdinand Marcos, who ruled here for 21 years, is 68, tall, elegant, outlandish and still a celebrity.

Although her name has been sullied, her fortune confiscated, and her freedom gained only after posting bail, the irrepressible Marcos is convinced that rehabilitation and vindication are within reach, if only people would embrace the same history she does.

The world may remember her primarily as the woman with a lavish lifestyle and 1,200 pairs of shoes, but to Filipinos, she is still the bejeweled, impeccably coiffed lady with waist-length jet-black hair and star qualities whom you can love or hate but not ignore.

She mesmerized the US Embassy's Fourth of July party by singing the American and Philippine national anthems.

And when she walked unannounced into a New Orleans restaurant, the

American owner, Murray Hertz, recalled:

"Conversation just stopped. It was like a movie star had come in. She asked for a mike and started singing. She had everyone spellbound because this was Imelda Marcos. She has tremendous charisma. And I think the Filipinos, who are forgiving people anyway, have a hard time staying mad at someone like that."

Finally clear of traffic, her RV pulled up to Congress, and Marcos, an elected member of the lower house from distant Leyte island, alighted to the cheers of a hundred supporters.

She acted taken aback, surprised, then delighted by an unexpected show of affection.

Schoolchildren gathered around and serenaded her with some Christmas carols.

Marcos, who suffers from irreversible glaucoma, removed her dark glasses and dabbed at a tear.

The crowd grew. Not to worry, she said. She had Christmas presents for everyone.

She motioned the crowd to follow her onto the street where three trailer trucks were parked, loaded with numerous 4.5-kilo bags of rice bearing the words, "Merry Christmas, Imelda."

In 1976, a friend, Sol Vanzi, read Marcos's palm, and F.L. — as she was then known, for first lady — had three questions: Will I ever be poor again? Will I die violently? Will my family and I be able to stay together forever in the Philippines?

Ten years later, Ferdinand Marcos and his wife of 32 years fled to Hawaii in a "People Power" revolution that brought Corazon Aquino to the presidency.

Aquino's first executive order was to set up a commission to track down and reclaim the billions of dollars Ferdinand and Imelda are said to have



Marcos, here seen autographing one of her legendary shoes, still behaves like a queen, despite having to deal with a felony conviction and enormous debts.

stolen while in office — he as president, Ferdinand Marcos died in Hawaii in 1989. After a long legal battle, Imelda

Marcos was allowed to return to the Philippines in 1991.

By then, the Marcoses' 11 homes had been emptied of priceless art and silver collections, which were sold at auction.

Several pieces, including a Picasso, were said to have been smuggled back to Imelda Marcos by former staffers who camouflaged them in fruit baskets.

In 1993, Marcos was convicted of graft, in a relatively minor business transaction in which the court said she did not benefit personally.

She is now free on \$3,000 bail while appealing the conviction, and has received permission from the Supreme Court to leave the Philippines for the first time since 1993 in order to get treatment for her eye ailment in Boston.

Marcos said that claims against the family estate now stand at some \$70 billion.

Still unresolved are the whereabouts and ownership of more than five tons of gold.

"Simple arithmetic tells you the allegations are ludicrous," said the former first lady, who always refers to her husband by his last name.

"Marcos's total budget for all his years as president was 70 billion pesos (\$2 billion at current exchange rates). You mean he stole every cent and still built thousands of miles of roads, power plants and all he accomplished? Add up the numbers. Something is wrong.

Indeed, history has the whole 21 years wrong, she believes.

Marcos wasn't a dictator but one of the world's great democrats. He wasn't a thief; he was an astute trader in precious metals who started buying gold when it sold for \$32 an ounce. He declared martial law not to perpetuate his own rule but to prevent the Philippines from slipping into political

instability, lawlessness and economic ruin.

As for her role, she had none, other than as loving supporter.

Imelda Marcos, who gives her \$370-a-month congressional salary to charity, says she is broke and living on the generosity of friends.

"They've been wonderful," she said. "Doris Duke [the late tobacco heiress] gave \$5 million to bail me out and \$10 million to pay my lawyers' bills."

Clearly, whoever is footing the bills has deep pockets, and Imelda Marcos lives in a style befitting a millionaire, though perhaps no longer that of a billionaire.

Half a dozen staffers, including a nurse/hairdresser, see to her needs and keep her legal documents in order. On the grand piano in her apartment are photographs of the Marcoses with world leaders such as former president Reagan, and on the coffee table are stacked books on the Marcos legacy, one of whose authors is identified as a "dissident cousin."

"A terrible book," Marcos said. "Very unfair. But that's all right. I'm used to that."

Next to the door were two suitcases. Marcos was preparing to wing her way to the United States for a two-week stay.

On her itinerary were several doctors' appointments in Boston, meetings to discuss her legal wrangles, and a stopover in Washington to see friends from the times when the world knew no more powerful and wealthy couple than Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos.

"I may be seeing the president," she said casually, although a US diplomat here said that wasn't in the cards.

An outsider she may now be, but she gave no hint of understanding that anything had changed from the old days. (LA Times)

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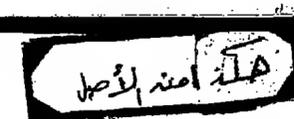
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Myths and fairy tales for Hanukka

BY HELEN KAYE

Hanukka means eight days of vacation for the kids, but not for Mom and Dad, so kids need to be kept busy. The good news is that there are lots of glossy musicals and kiddie shows. The bad news is that unless you can acquire the tickets through workers' committees or other discount schemes, they cost from NIS 75 and up, with the average price around NIS 100. National park sites, museums and other institutions have Hanukka activities for considerably less outlay.

The undoubted seasonal superstar is the revival of the evergreen *Fiddler on the Roof* starring the inimitable Haim Topol, who's now more suited to play Tevye the milkman than he was when he first did the role nearly 30 years ago. Rivka Raz is his Golde, and Topol's daughter Adi plays Tevye's eldest daughter, Tzeitel.

Looking exactly like all the Broadway and London productions, this *Fiddler* is directed by choreographer/director Sammy Dallas Bayes, handpicked by original director/choreographer Jerome Robbins. It opens at the Jerusalem Theater on December 20 for three shows and then comes to Binyanei Ha'oma on December 31.

At Tel Aviv's Tzavta, kids from about five on will have a ball with director Amir Maman's up-tempo adaptation of Saint-Exupéry's ageless fable *The Little Prince*, with music by Boaz Avni. In the title role, 15-year-old Amit Biron looks remarkably like the original illustrations. There's a set of luminous stars, and energetic dancing and singing from the young cast. It starts December 24.

Up the road at Habimah there'll be the star-studded *The Heart* directed by Assaf Levine, which he adapted from the book by Edmondo de Amicis. The music is by Yaron Karkaf. It's the story of Marko's quest for his mother during which he begins to grow up. Marko is played by 11-year-old Gil Segal; Tuvia Tsafir is "the heart," Marko's guardian angel; honey-voiced Sassi Keshet plays the bad guy; and Liat Ahiron is Marko's mother. It starts the 24th, too.

Another musical set to go that day is *Robin Hood* with Lior Miller in the title role, Natan Dater who will



Pinocchio (Itai Segev) finds himself behind bars, to the dismay of Jiminy Cricket (Michal Greenspan-Hashai).

no doubt have a ball as the wicked Sheriff of Nottingham, and Israel Poliakov (Poli from the Gashash Hahiver) as Tickle. Who's she? Well, she's the Dame because this *Robin Hood*, directed by the UK's Paul Miles, is a pantomime straight from London's West End. The pantomime is traditional entertainment at Christmastime in the UK, usually based on well-known fairy tales with the Dame, always a man, providing comic relief. Of course this version also has Friar Tuck, Maid Marian, Will Scarlett and all the rest

of the *Merry Men*. It's at Tel Aviv's Beit Habayal. And is there any child who doesn't know the story of Pinocchio? The little wooden boy whose nose grows when he lies and who becomes a real, flesh-and-blood boy because of good deeds? Itai Segev plays the title role in yet another musical version of *Pinocchio* by Pinni Eden with music by Ilan Gilboa. Yossi Graber plays his father, Geppetto. Talented choreographer Daniela Michaeli is the director and it all starts, yes, on

December 24 again but at the Noga Theater in Jaffa. Despite Anat Elimelech's death, the Haifa Festival she was to have graced will go on as planned, starting December 23 at the Sports Arena. The traditional songfest is directed by mime Hanooh Rosemne whose *The Jungle Book* was such a hit last year. He's modeling the show on the theme of the *Home Alone* movies. It stars the children's favorites from the Children's Channel, such as Hani Nahmas, Efrat Reiten, Tal Maseri

and Nimrod Reshef, not to mention Rosemne himself and young Tom Avni, last year's *Mowgli*. A Festival highlight will surely be 12-year-old Ya'ara Shabo's "To Be a Child Here," winner of the Children's Channel Festival Anthem contest. This year, Channel 6 is collaborating with the Haifa Municipality for the first time. Tickets for all these shows are available at local ticket offices and at the various box offices. As an example of some museum activities, the Eretz Israel Museum

at Ramat Aviv (03-641-5244) has a full range from arts and crafts workshops to sound and light shows, all during museum hours. As for other attractions, Kibbutz Ein Gedi near the Dead Sea (toll-free 177-022-3320) offers jeep trips into the desert among other places. You could take in Masada while you're down there. There are concerts at Beit Jemal (02-991-3195) or Hakhan Hacameri (02-991-5786), a sound and light show in a cave at Neot Kedumim (08-977-0777), and more.

The stars learn Kabbala

By TOM TUGEND

Next to wangling an invitation to one of the star-studded parties following the annual Academy Awards, the best place to run into your favorite Hollywood celebrities may be at the Kabbala Learning Center in Los Angeles.

Kabbala, the mystical Jewish writings dating back to the 12th century, is attracting a growing number of stars, as well as ordinary folks, in search of spiritual fulfillment and insights into the relationship between God and humans.

One such seeker is Madonna, who has been studying with the center's senior teacher, Eliza Yardeni. Such is the Material Girl's faith in her instructor that during her pregnancy she sought his advice on the best day to deliver her child.

Yardeni suggested the day of Rosh Hodesh, or New Moon, and that's the day she gave birth to her daughter Lourdes, by cesarean section.

The KLC is headquartered in Tel Aviv and has branches in New York, South America, Canada, Mexico and France. It has been attacked by mainstream rabbis for teaching a superficial pop version of the Kabbala without demanding any grounding in Talmud studies. A number of disenchanted former members have charged the center with high-pressure tactics to extract their money.

Despite the criticism, the center continues to attract celebrities, both Jewish and non-Jewish. Reputed disciples include Barbra Streisand, Elizabeth Taylor, Courtney Love, Jeff Goldblum, Laura Dern, Diane Ladd, Sandra Bernhard, Donna Karan and Isaac Mizrahi.

During Yom Kippur services at the center, Roseanne Barr reserved an entire row for herself and her entourage.

But the main spotlight has fallen on Madonna, who hosted a high-powered reception for potential recruits in September. She told her guests that though she was raised as a Catholic, nothing has affected her as much as her Kabbala lessons, through which she has been able to take responsibility for her life.

But at this point, and despite reports to the contrary, Madonna has not signaled any intention to formally convert to Judaism, according to her publicist and a spokeswoman for the Kabbala Center.

That has not discouraged journalist and author Yosef L. Abramowitz, who distributes his popular Jewish Family & Life column through publications and the Internet.

In his latest column, he notes that Madonna has "all the elements of being a good Jew and a great Jewish mother." She keeps kosher, by virtue of being a vegetarian, gives to charity, rebukes society's shortcomings, and, as a topper, Abramowitz writes, "Jews are commanded to delight in sex and to satisfy our partners. You have rejected Christianity's puritanical linking of sin and sexuality. 'Make it official,' urges the writer. 'Give Lourdes a new heritage that will bring meaning and a spiritual satisfaction for which her mother has always longed.' At press time, there had been no official response from Madonna.

Laughing at the human condition

By HELEN KAYE

A recalcitrant hat held up the start of a rehearsal of Goldoni's Venetian farce *The Twins*, opening at the Beersheba Municipal Auditorium on Saturday.

Which is perfectly apt because the play is a riotous comedy of errors that happens when dumb but rich Zanetto (Avi Kushmir) of Bergamo comes to Verona to marry pretty Rosaura (Dana Shreyer). Unfortunately his twin, the sophisticated Tonino (Avi Kushmir again), is also in Verona. He has fled from some unpleasantness in Venice, and after him has come his lady love, Beatrice (Galila Spring).

Of course it all comes right in the end, but there's a twist in the tale of this comedy that attracted director Micki Gurevitch.

"There is something surreal about this play," he says. "It's as though Tonino and Zanetto are two halves of the same person, and for that whole to mature, something must happen."

Designer Ruth Dar has carried the surreal concept through in her Magritte-like set of clouds and blue skies surmounted, as though floating, by the skyline of a medieval Italian city.

One of the contributions of Carlo Goldoni (1707-1793) to Italian drama was the revitalization of the *commedia dell'arte*, an art form that by the 18th century had become sterile and artificial. The characters and plot of *The Twins* are in the *commedia* tradition, but Goldoni infuses



Clockwise from top left: Shira Gefen, Dana Shreyer, Galila Spring and Avi Kushmir bring 'commedia dell'arte' to local stages.

both with the vivid life of his times.

Gurevitch is not bothered about a message or relevance because "when a poet writes something, then it speaks over the centuries. Jokes come and go, but the human condition remains. Every comedy

has its own joy and life, and that of its time. That's what we're trying to create on stage."

The Twins is a joint Beit Lessin/Beersheba Theater production and will play at the Eretz Yisrael Museum in Ramat Aviv from January 19.

Virtuosi festival for Jerusalem

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

More than 20 of the finest musicians in the world are due to gather for a 10-day festival of chamber music in Jerusalem next fall. Not that the capital is lacking in festivals or chamber music activities, but this festival will be the first of its kind. Each evening, from September 1 to 10, there will be a mini-marathon of music (three hours with two intermissions) focusing on a particular style of music. Russian evenings, a French performance, German and Viennese concerts are some of the programs on the agenda.

The roster of musicians will include such esteemed names as pianists Yefim Bronfman and Bruno Canino, cellist Mischa Maisky, oboist Hans Jorg Schellenberger, the Huberman Quartet and others. What's more, these virtuosos will perform at the festival for free.

How did the initiator, pianist Heleoa Bashkirova, succeed in persuading all these first-rate musicians to appear in Jerusalem - and free of charge? "There was not even a question," says Bashkirova. "They all jumped at the idea, and not one of them ever dreamed of asking to be paid. They all know that Israel is not a country where musicians earn money. They just look forward to having a good time here. Jerusalem is a wonderful city; its beauty is so stunning, it's just breathtaking."

The idea for the festival emerged when the pianist was here last year and discussed several possibilities with some Israeli friends. An avid chamber musician herself, Bashkirova loves the idea and hopes it will

become an annual event. "Some musicians are sorry they won't be able to participate, but people like Maxim Vengerov, Tabca Zimmermann and Boris Pergamenschikov have promised to come the following year."

The two names one would have thought obvious on the festival roster are missing. Bashkirova's father, renowned Russian pianist Dmitry Bashkirov, and her husband, Daniel Barenboim, are not participating in her festival.

"We have a strict rule that family members don't play together. Really I would have loved Daniel to come, not he will be very busy with the Chicago Symphony at that time. As for my father, he doesn't play chamber music at all these days, only solo recitals."

Bashkirova's first husband, violinist Gideon Kremer, is coming. "I owe my love of chamber music to Gideon. He whetted my appetite for this genre when I was interested in other things. We played a lot of chamber music together and now it is probably what I like best."

The festival will be presented under the administrative patronage of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra-IBA. The concerts will take place at the Khan Theater, which was the regular chamber music hall in Jerusalem several decades ago. "There are several great halls in Jerusalem but there is nothing unique about them - they could be anywhere in the world. But the Khan is special. It has so much atmosphere, and there is the patio and the Jerusalem stones. It is rather small, but I think that is perfect for the first year. If the festival is successful, we can look for larger halls in the future."

Bashkirova emphasizes that she likes the format of a long program divided by two intermissions. "We want to create a family between the musicians and the audience. Those who come for several evenings and stay with us during the intermissions, when we can all mingle on the patio, will emerge at the end as special family members."

The music itself, ranging from Beethoven, Haydn, Tchaikovsky, Schubert and Mozart to Debussy, Poulenc, Martinu and Berg, says Bashkirova, is "like a dinner in three courses. Some say it is too adventurous, others say it is less so. I think that at the beginning we have to be somewhat more popular in our programming, but we'll see. This festival is obviously a pilot. After it is over, we will discuss how successful it was and what our mistakes were and then the next one will obviously be even more successful," she says optimistically.

Tickets will go on sale several months before the festival.

Debutante climbs 'the Mount Everest of violin music'

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Yon must have some verve, nerve and a lot of chutzpa to make your recording debut playing Bach's solo violin music. This is something violinists usually reach much later in their career. Bach usually comes after you fathom Beethoven, Mozart and Brahms. To climb this Mount Everest of violin music, you need to have experience.

Yet young American violinist Hilary Hahn's debut disc on Sony (*Hilary Hahn plays Bach*, SK 62793), featuring the last three Bach solo sonatas and partitas, is a winner. It showcases a young but

very mature violinist delving deep into the music and coming out a real winner. The violin doesn't often emerge as the obvious choice for a solo recital.

Promoters and concert-goers seem to prefer violin-piano recitals over solo violin ventures. Violinists, too, enjoy having a piano to share the stage with. In fact, there is not that much solo violin music around, although Bach provided six works (three sonatas and three partitas) which are gigantic, to say the least.

Many young female musicians present themselves on the covers of their discs nowadays. Beauty sells, no doubt. But Hahn does not try to project sexiness, cuteness or

magazine-type sensationalism on her covers. Rather, she comes across as a graceful young lady, sensuous and beautiful yet serious

CLASSIC DISCS

By Michael Ajzenstadt

in her approach. The photos are engaging and eye-catching because they are not what seems to be the trend. They suggest that Hahn is not willing to compromise anything: that the music, the violin, are the most important things for her. And indeed, when you listen to the music, she communi-

cates that feeling. Hahn is a graceful violinist with a warm sound that embraces you with the beauty of its tone. Her Bach sings with elan and finesse, her music-making is sincere. Yes, it is obvious that she is not a violinist with decades of experience to her credit but that doesn't bother the listener at all, for what emerges is fresh, exuberant, vivacious and, at times, very subdued Bach. Joie de vivre is the key here - the joy of playing music, the joy of playing some of the greatest music ever written for the violin.

Most of the leading violinists of the century have recorded these Bach works, each with his or her own personal language. Hahn's disc is not going to replace Heifetz, Perlman or Mintz. But it is going to be there with them, offering a sensuous and graceful reading of the music. Now all one has to do is await Hahn's next disc and hear her live on the concert stage. This disc whets the appetite. It has put Hahn up there with some of the finest musicians of our time. Now she has to prove she can stay there, to show that with piano or orchestral accompaniment she can continue to play in her own sincere, seductive way. Hearing Hahn play is a joy no music-lover should deny him/herself.

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Iranian challenge

Judged by Joseph Stalin's famous measure of power by which he dismissed the pope — "How many divisions does he have?" — Iranian President Mohammed Khatami has no power. But Khatami's surprise call for a dialogue with the United States may, intentionally or not, spell the beginning of the end for the Iranian regime.

The mullahs who included Khatami on their approved slate in elections in May were shocked when he trounced their preferred candidate by winning 70 percent of the vote. Now that Khatami has said he has "great respect for the American people," that Iran has things to learn from the US, and that he wished to open a "thoughtful dialogue" with the American people, Iran's ruling clerics must be doubly ruing their miscalculation.

The question is whether the mullahs, led by Ayatollah Khamenei, will be able to close the wedge opened by Khatami, or whether, like Mikhail Gorbachev's *glasnost*, the opening of any small crack will bring the whole edifice tumbling down.

The mullahs know they are sitting on a powder keg and that Khatami is very popular: The Iranian people have had it with theocracy and are pining for a reconciliation with the Western world. Some analysts even claim that the US is more popular among the people of Iran than in any other Moslem nation — largely because the government has transformed the US into forbidden fruit.

The question is how the West, primarily the US, should respond to Khatami's rhetorical overture. US President Bill Clinton has remarked that "I would like nothing better than to have a dialogue with Iran, as long as we can have an honest discussion of the relevant issues."

As an indication of what those issues would be, he elaborated, "We remain concerned about their sponsorship of terrorism, about violent attacks on the [Middle East] peace process, about the development and acquisition of weapons of mass destruction."

Clinton's statement was simply a restatement of longstanding US policy and, as far as it goes, was the appropriate stance to take. The US has always expressed a strong desire to restore warm relations with Iran the minute that nation ceases to madly arm itself, support terrorism and oppose the peace process. The trickier part is keeping up American efforts to isolate Iran if Khatami's remarks turn out to be an empty

charm offensive covering up the same old aggressive policies.

Even before the Khatami overture, the Clinton administration had not shown much stomach for taking on the European trade-till-you-drop approach toward Iran. The US Congress, tired of the Europeans taking advantage of US economic sanctions against Iran, passed the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act, which requires the US government to impose sanctions on foreign companies that invest over \$20 million in Iran's energy sector.

Along came a consortium of Total (France), Gazprom (Russia), and Petronis (Malaysia) with a \$2 billion deal to develop new Iranian energy resources. Not to put too fine a point on it, French officials not only praised the deal, but mentioned that it would violate the new American sanctions law.

Now the gauntlet has been thrown down, and the Clinton administration has been dithering since September over whether to pick it up and impose sanctions, or find some excuse to waive the punishment despite the law's grievous and intentional violation.

At the same time, the US is still "studying" whether the hip-deep involvement of Russian companies and institutes in Iran's crash missile program constitutes a violation of the Gore-McCain Act (yes, then-senator, now Vice President Al Gore). That law was designed to impose sanctions on entities that violate the Missile Technology Control Regime, a matter which is not in the slightest doubt in this case.

The danger now is that the US will snatch defeat from the jaws of victory by gutting its own sanctions regime. That regime is often portrayed as the equivalent of a styrofoam bat in the arsenal of international diplomacy; but as porous, scattered, and unilateral as American sanctions have been, the Khatami overture is a sign that they have worked. To let up now would only halt any process of moderation in its tracks. After all, why should the mullahs give up their war against the West if they can ease their isolation without changing their behavior?

Iran knows full well that if it ceases its aggressive policies the floodgates of Western friendship would open in response. Until those policies change, a dialogue is acceptable because, if anything, it will undermine the regime. It must be made clear, however, that talk will be met with talk and action with action; until Iran changes its policies, the sanctions must be enforced.



Anatomy of paternalism

In retrospect, the Palestinian Arab rebellion against Israel, also known as the intifada, has gained wide respectability within Israel itself. At the tenth anniversary of the intifada, an increasing number of Israelis have developed a certain infatuation with the passions of a Palestinian national movement. Indeed, there is a new Israeli passion to grant a national state to its traditional enemy and put aside its traditional hesitancy to grant any such gesture.

However, the new Israeli attitude to Palestinian Arabs conveys a certain presumptuous paternalism. Since the Palestinians long so much for a state of their own, so goes the Israeli paternalistic thinking, and since we in Israel so much want to separate from them, we'll give them a state, not a real state, but rather more like a toy state, a nation without an army, without control over its skies and certainly without any real sovereignty.

Our native paternalism does not stop there, but rather with the illusion that Palestinian Arabs will even think of agreeing to it, and that they will thank us for such a gesture and even yearn to make a peace treaty with us as a result.

As a case in point, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu naively declared that a future Palestinian Arab state could be modeled on a mini-state such as Andorra or Puerto Rico and that would provide an appropriate national model that the Palestinian Arab national movement would be prepared to accept.

When it comes to the concept of this "Palestinian toy state," opinions in Israel do not really vary, from Right to Left. No one even

EMUNAH ELON

on the Left is prepared to accept an independent Palestinian Arab state in the middle of the country, with artillery power and/or control over water resources.

WITH all due respect, the Palestinians did not conduct an intifada in order to get a kind of semi-state, comprised of two

Does anyone care how Palestinian Arabs interpret the meaning of a Palestinian state?

detached pseudo-autonomous districts in the West Bank and Gaza. Palestinians were not arrested in the thousands and killed in the hundreds in order to earn the right to empty out municipal garbage by themselves. After all, their leaders led the intifada under the slogan of "With blood and fire we will redeem our rights."

The intifada was a national rebellion, while the Palestine National Liberation movement never reneged on full liberation of all of Palestine as its goal, and it has never hinted that it would settle for anything less than a state where the issue of Palestinian Arab sovereignty is recognized with Jerusalem as an integral part of its state.

The Palestinian Arabs most certainly became used to our paternal-

istic attitude towards them, through-out their and our mutual history. Israeli leaders have always believed that they "read" the Palestinians better than they read themselves. Israel's former prime minister Golda Meir used to go out of her way to declare that the Palestinian people simply did not exist. Even worse, a steady stream of leaders over the past few years have tried to minimize the expectations of Palestinian leaders and present them as an infantile people who are ready to pioneer an infantile state.

These days, Israelis seem to compete with one another to declare that a Palestinian state is already an "established fact". On almost every newsweek, more and more Israelis join the chorus, and a recent public opinion poll showed that 52% of the Israeli population sample surveyed now believe that the Palestinian state is now a reality.

Palestinian Arab surveys might come out differently. But who here cares what Palestinians are thinking? Does anyone care how Palestinian Arabs interpret the meaning of a Palestinian state? The Palestinian Arab people continued to exist even when we in Israel said they did not and they continued their war of independence even though we declared ourselves to be the victors of that conflict.

Israelis who are embroidering a Palestinian Arab state with their blue and white thread may find that Palestinian Arabs may not be too pleased with what Israelis have in mind for them.

The writer was, until recently, the advisor on women's affairs to the Prime Minister.

Death in custody

BASSEM EID

On July 4, 1994, Farid Abu-Jarba was beaten to death in the interrogation ward of Gaza Central Prison by three officers of the General Intelligence Service, who wanted him to confess to the crime of collaborating with Israel. His senseless death came as a shock to the Palestinian public, and Abu-Jarba's own family. His father told the press at the time that he "wasn't worried, because Farid was in the hands of our own people and not the Israelis. I never thought they would be worse than the Jews."

Today of course, people know better — than to compare the Palestinian human rights situation with that of Israel.

Each death of a prisoner in custody — and at least 17 others have followed in Abu-Jarba's wake — carries with it the pain of a bereaved family. The rest of us no longer have the luxury of shock or surprise.

Death in custody, usually the result of brutal torture, is a phenomenon of the Palestinian detention centers and I don't think it will stop soon. Every time a Palestinian leader, politician, officer or human rights activist tries to reassure the public that the situation is improving, events prove otherwise. These killings are committed by individuals, but as a phenomenon, the issue is one that the Palestinian Authority must answer for, because of its participation in the cover-ups, lies, and callousness to the families.

The public still remembers the horrible photos of Mahmoud Jumayal's body as he lay dying in an Israeli hospital in July 1996. He had been transferred there from Jneid Prison in Nablus, where Naval Police officers interrogated him. Jumayal was popular with the citizenry of Nablus because he was a leader of the Fatah Hawks during the intifada. Rumor has it that he was original-

If the PA leadership cannot respect our human rights, on what grounds does it command our support?

ly arrested to prevent him from running against an Arafat loyalist in the elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council.

The men who tortured Jumayal are behind bars today, after being sentenced in a trial held only three days after Jumayal died. During the trial, the presiding judge — presumably appointed directly by Yasser Arafat — asked why the Naval Police was involved in the questioning of Jumayal, Captain Abdul Hakim Hajjo, later sentenced to 15 years for his part in killing Jumayal, replied that he had no answer. He said that he was only obeying orders, and the judge should ask his superiors. This was not done, and questions surrounding Jumayal's death remain unanswered to this day.

The spokespersons for the PA would prefer it if human rights activists would stick to reporting the fact that the Naval Police officers were sentenced to long prison terms. As our latest report, *Deaths in Detention: A Pattern of Abuse, Illegality and Impunity* shows, however, the PA's failure to confront the questions surrounding Jumayal's death leads to the harsh conclusion that the PA is not serious about solving its human-rights problems. It has avoided answering questions in every single case of a death in custody.

FOR THE PA to improve its record on human rights, it must start with the immediate payment of adequate compensation to the families of those who died in prison. Abu-Jarba's father was called to the office of the former attorney general, Khalid Qidra, and told that if he didn't shut up about his son's death, his daughter would be arrested. She had recently married, and it is likely that an arrest, even on no charges at all, would have resulted in divorce. Sadly, this is not the only case of blackmail designed to deprive the victim's family of their rights.

The PA should also fulfill its promises to investigate cases of death in custody. Palestinians are often reminded that criticizing the PA on human rights grounds only weakens the bargaining position of the leadership versus Israel. If our leadership cannot respect our human rights, on what grounds does it command our support?

Human rights violations are, by definition, committed by criminals. Palestinian human rights activists will continue their opposition to such criminals, be they Israeli or Palestinian.

The writer is director of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NO RIGHT TO INTRUDE

Sir — On December 10, there was a letter "Likud USA" from the "President of Likud, USA, Inc." I find it absolutely incredible that these people have actually organized themselves into a corporation in order to interfere in the internal politics of a sovereign country. It seems that some American

Jews have still not grasped the fact that Israel is an independent nation and that outsiders, who may in general support it, have no right to intrude in its party politics. If they wish to do so, they should live here.

Haifa.
EVE SHORR

SCRAP THE JUBILEE

Sir — I suggest that Israel's jubilee festivities be scrapped and the money earmarked by the government for these celebrations be redirected to provide the necessary medicines for those afflicted with cancer, AIDS and diabetes.

Whilst the funds can't be found to alleviate the dire needs of thou-

sands of Ethiopian immigrants, and there are still hundreds of thousands of children, elderly, and their families, living in Israel below the poverty line, I for one can do without the jubilee festivities.

Herzliya Pituah.
PAUL KOHN

STRONG MESSAGE

Sir — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cancelled his subscription to a Hebrew newspaper because, as he stated, it crossed all lines of decency, humanity and morality. How about his decency, humanity and morality when he kept silent as Yitzhak Rabin was being portrayed as a Nazi general?

Ramat Aviv Gimmel.
MARCEL FREY

Sir — How can one argue that the Histadrut strike was bad for the people when in fact it was the people (at the very least a significant part) who were striking. When several hundred thousand people behave in that manner, there is a message to the state that it disregards at its peril.

Jerusalem.
OSCAR C. RAUCH

BENE ISRAEL

Sir — It was reported in "Indian Jews fight for recognition — again" (November 6) that the chief rabbi of Petah Tikva, Shimon Solomon has created problems regarding marriages of Indian Jews in Israel.

At an emergency meeting on August 17, 1964, the Knesset passed a resolution moved by prime minister Levi Eshkol, affirming that the Bene Israel were Jews in all respects and with the same rights as all other Jews, including matters of personal status. The resolution also called on the Chief Rabbinate to remove the causes of any feeling of discrimination among them.

Two weeks later the Chief Rabbinate finally issued a statement deleting all references to the Bene Israel in the directive which was made applicable to anyone whose family status was in doubt.

Any action taken by the chief rabbinate of Petah Tikva contrary to the instructions would amount to contempt of the Knesset and the Chief Rabbinate of Israel.

Likud: The golem immediately ties itself up in knots. You can have "liked," which is an option, at least for some, or "licked," which others may prefer — or "liquid," which is perhaps the most accurate description of the state of our ruling party.

Herut, one of Likud's founding entities and its ideological bedrock, can be "heart" — it always was strong on emotions, or "hereto," "whereto" or even "whereto," presumably reflecting the party's preoccupation with history and territory. Shas is open to numerous interpretations, or so the program thinks (probably rightly). Anything from "shag" to "Shah" or even "sham" is offered, with "chase" as a long-shot that also seems worthy of consideration. Moving onto the left-wing parties, the machine seems reasonably comfortable with Meretz, suggesting only "merits" (very complimentary) and "meters" (less so). But it can't make head or tail of the parties that combined to create Meretz. Shimul could be anything

ed to be fleeing to the Lebanon while Egyptian Jews were black-mailed into large contributions for the "Youth of Palestine." Numerous superannuated Arab policemen who deserted their force with arms and ammunition were reported to be joining Arab terrorists in Damascus.

25 years ago: On December 17, 1972, The Jerusalem Post reported that Soviet police arrested 57 Jews in raids on their homes, only hours before the opening of the Supreme Soviet. In Jerusalem the Zionist Executive decided to step up the struggle against the academic head-tax imposed by the Soviet Union on emigrants.

Alexander Zvielli

Spell-check

PINCHAS LANDAU

Hebrew is a tough language to master; generations of immigrants to this country have learned this, usually the hard way. But it's really tough if you're dumb, and no one comes dumber than a computer.

Trying a review of the Israeli political situation. In English, on a supposedly sophisticated word-processing machine. Unless you are a walking dictionary, you will probably want to use the facility provided by this miracle of modern technology, known as a spell-check, to ensure that you haven't made any unnecessary blunders or mistakes. However, the damn machines are now so smart that they flag down every word they don't recognize, and then make what they term "suggestions," to help you out of what they consider to be your difficulties.

The following is a sample of these suggested spelling errors and the suggestions made to "correct" them, on a small sample of who's who and what's what in this country.

Let's start with the political parties. Obviously, Labor is OK, although there is always the US/UK issue of Labor/Labour. The trouble starts with...

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from "shin" or "chin" (?) to "shine" and "shone," or even "shun," if you don't like it, and "China" if you want to send it really far away. As for the former Socialist bastion, Mafpan, the programmers had a breakdown on this one: "Ma'am" is far too royalist, "Madam" is still very aristocratic, and "Mama" is either Freudian or just plain wrong.

But the machine knows where it stands on some of the more extreme parties. Hadash is either a "headache," which is nothing to boast about, but sounds good compared to "Hades," which is where many people would like to see Hadash's MKs. Moledet could be "molted," although it hasn't yet, or "molested" — say no more. But on Rakab, the thing fouls up again — "rajah" is really the wrong address.

For Tsomet it has "no suggestions," which is probably just as well, considering it suggests "Titan" for Rafael Eitan.

But it comes up trumps on Gesher, which could be "geisha" — always ready to please, or "gusher," a fair reflection of David Levy's rhetorical strengths.

As regards haredim, it's very keen on "hard" and variations thereof — "hardy," "harden," "harder." But these are not convincing, and "harem" is clearly wrong. However, the more daring, if far-out, "haidro" has distinct possibilities.

Even a simple term, such as right-winger or left-winger, throws the machine into paroxysms of self-doubt. It knows what "left" and "right" are, fortunately, but has no idea about "wingers" (no sporting, or even air-force, background). To be on the safe side, it offers "winners" (could be), "winders" (very often, particularly during the campaign) and "win-ters" (surely a euphemism for the opposite of "winners," loc. cit.).

SO MUCH for parties; what about their leaders? Here there emerge some clear biases, although with these favor is not so clear. For Messrs Netanyahu, Neeman and Mordechai it has, collectively and individually, "no suggestions" (better safe than sorry?). But Labor leaders receive no such mercy.

סוכן אל עמ



JERUSALEM Jerusalem of old



By Judy Siegel Itzkovich

DavkaGraphics Photo Collection: Jerusalem, a collection of 110 photos of Israel's capital, in English, for the whole family, marketed in Israel by Alan Rosenbaum (02) 999-2936 or at Kol Ze'ev stores. Web site at <http://www.davka.com>, NIS 104. Rating: four stars out of five

O Jerusalem! To see you as you were in the Seventies: innocent, optimistic, tolerant, without the heaps of uncollected garbage, deadening series of terror attacks, littered streets, tension between religious and secular, intifada, traffic jams, beggars and pollution to which Jerusalemites have become accustomed — even resigned — to in the Nineties.

New immigrant photographer Nachum Duchin has managed to capture in photographs taken recently this more pleasant face of Jerusalem that we miss; he did so by focusing his camera on smiling people, scenic views (many of them without people at all) and a surprisingly large number of sunset and night scenes. The graves of Yitzhak Rabin and Golda Meir and the Yad Vashem memorial to Oskar Schindler (the German non-Jew who saved Jews during the Holocaust) are included, along with photos of the Western Wall, the King David Hotel, the Knesset, the Yemin Moshe windmill, the Ben-Yehuda Mall and the Jewish Quarter. Of the 110 photos, there are nearly half a dozen of Jerusalemites using cellular phones!

These are not the dramatic photos that have been produced by Israel Prize winner David Rubinger, for example, but routine shots that any Jerusalemite would recognize immediately. The down side of Jerusalem is ignored here, but this is not surprising, as the aim is to use these photos for desktop publishing efforts. Web page authoring, catalogs, synagogue bulletins and pupils' book reports. All the photos may be reproduced without paying a fee to the photographer; one need only give copyright credit to the Davka Corporation. The only other requirement is that the images may not be used for "pornographic, defamatory, libelous or otherwise unlawful use."

The Chicago-based software corporation Davka hired a Jerusalem company named Sweetchild Software to make the photographs usable for these purposes. Its "Scene It" program includes an antiplay feature that presents a slide show of the photos at random. In addition, any picture can be flipped upside down or made into a mirror image. One can also easily adjust the color intensity and brightness, invert the colors like a photo-

graphic negative and give the photo an embossed effect. When producing a multimedia program, the photo editor can also use a variety of effects when going from image to image, including fill in, fill out, spiral in, spiral out and pixels.

The photos, sorted according to categories, can be printed out on the spot, installed onto your hard drive or used with Print Shop Deluxe-Windows and Macintosh.

Payuta Ve'El Hakerah (Payuta and the Ice God), a CD-ROM by Ubi Soft, translated and distributed by Bug Multisystem in Hebrew, English and French, for children aged four to nine, NIS 149. Rating: three-and-a-half stars out of five

Payuta, a small but brave Inuit (Eskimo) boy living in the frozen north, is the hero of this storybook on a disk. The story, which takes some 40 minutes to listen to and watch through 11 separate screens, tells how a tyrant named Kiagnyk kidnaps Payuta's older sister Opiak to make her cook for him. Accompanied by pleasant music and excellent animation, the story isn't much different from Sleeping Beauty, Hansel and Gretel or Dorothy dealing with the Wicked Witch of the West in *The Wizard of Oz*.

Payuta faces Kiagnyk in his ice-berg cavern, and is commanded to bring the ice star to him from the top of the Mountain of Clouds. The boy is told that only by facing the dangers en route to the mountain and bringing back the ice star can he earn his sister's release. The omnipresent tyrant, who can see Payuta wherever he is, places a variety of obstacles in the boy's way, but with the help of friendly animals — an eagle, a narwhal and a seal — he manages to reach the mountain and pluck the ice star. This act causes the appearance of spring on the mountain.

Returning to the iceberg, Payuta presents Kiagnyk with his prized trophy, but the tyrant refuses to turn over his sister. The ice star, which Kiagnyk swallows, turns the surroundings into a green garden, fulfilling the Inuit legend that "a child whose heart is pure will bring back the spring." Ever since that time, we are told, the northern land has a short spring and a longer winter instead of just a single, bone-chilling season.

The story is accompanied by four different games — all pleasant but routine. One must identify eight northern animals by their description; reorganize a jigsaw puzzle; maneuver a seal so he can catch falling fish; and remember objects that have disappeared. These can be played at three levels of difficulty.

As with all other computerized books, once a child goes through the story a few times, he is likely to be bored; the games are not exciting enough to hold the interest of most kids. Despite the fine animation and pleasant presentation, a parent would probably be wiser to buy three or four children's books for the same price as the disk.



The cost of business travel: Aaron Weil missed his daughter's first steps. His wife Sharon left her job because of the travel demands. (Jonathan Bloom)

Leaving on a jet plane

With more jobs demanding travel abroad, working mothers are forgoing the climb up the corporate ladder, or at least suspending their frequent-flyer memberships, Allison Kaplan Sommer reports

Working motherhood has a new twist. As if the long hours and psychological demands of climbing the corporate ladder weren't enough, an even bigger challenge looms over many two-career couples. And it's in the shape of an airplane.

As Israeli companies increasingly integrate into the international scene, a meaningful white-collar career in business, particularly in the burgeoning high-tech sector, means travel. Many women with children who might otherwise have figured out how to square the difficult circle of their daily routine, say that the demands of travel became the straw that broke the camel's back. It is the factor that caused them, if not to drop out of the workplace completely, to take a sharp detour onto a path that will allow them, at least temporarily, to freeze their frequent-flyer memberships.

Deborah Shaked had thought that she was planning a career that could accommodate motherhood. Shaked is a business development consultant specializing in high-tech medical products and other products. Her forte is Japan and the rest of the Far East. She lived in Japan and acquired her MBA there, and knows the language, culture, and business environment well. Until a year-and-a-half ago she was retained by Japanese, Israeli, and American companies to handle product development. She would find a product in a particular country, do the market research on various potential export targets and establish a contractual relationship with the distributors in these countries. Shaked was so deeply invested in her career, she jokes that she was working until the moment she went into labor in August 1996. She gave birth to a baby girl, Sarane. "I had thought that establishing this consulting business before having children would be a wise move. I'd be independent, make my own hours, answer only to myself. I was sure I'd go back to what I had been doing after my child became one year old," she said.

But what she didn't take into account was the travel. "When you have a baby or a toddler, you just don't want to board a plane without them. And my skills are all associated with Asia. So you're not talking about two- or three-day hops to Europe, we are talking about trips that are for at least a week at a time. I just couldn't see myself doing it."

After weighing her options, Shaked decided not to return to consulting, even part-time, choosing instead to teach Japanese privately in her Tel Aviv home, primarily to business people. "I figure the continuing contact will help me to keep up business relationships so that when my daughter is older, I can consider traveling more. My dream is to take groups of Israeli business people to Japan to guide them through the beginnings of their business ventures, as something of an extension of the language classes. I have friends and family there, so if I go for an extended period, perhaps I could take my daughter with me."

Shaked insists that she made her decision wholeheartedly, and has no regrets about taking time out from the business world. "I don't feel frustrated, first, because I'm lucky enough to be in a financial position where it is not too painful, and because I so much love being with my daughter most of the day. In a way, I appreciate that her birth gave me the imagination and creativity to do something different."

Sharon Weil, who gave birth to a baby in the same month as Shaked, went back to her job organizing trade shows when her daughter Noa was four months old. "Before the baby, I traveled for long periods, a minimum of a week, mostly to Europe, but also to the US." Soon after she went back to work, she had to go to Paris for 48 hours on business. "I can't say it really took me by surprise, but I found I couldn't handle it. I decided, after two months back at work, to leave my job and stay home with the baby. Travel was really my biggest consideration in making that decision."

Today, Noa is a year and a half, and Weil is pregnant with her second child, and working part-time from home in a completely different field. Two of Shaked and Weil's counterparts, women with young children who have chosen to stay on track in their demanding jobs at major companies, were unwilling to be identified for this article. Having received special considerations from their employers not to have to travel so much, they fear being identified by their colleagues.

"Travel is a really sensitive issue, probably the most sensitive for me right now," said one woman. "I really like my job, and I don't want to put it at risk." The women say that they must maintain a delicate balance at work, trying to avoid travel for work whenever possible, without appearing to let down their co-workers or their bosses.

The need to keep up their "superwoman" image stops them from seeking support at the office. "What I don't understand is how all the other women manage, but I won't let it get out that I have a hard time," admitted one of the pair.

When her children were younger because of the travel demands, despite the potential for advancement. Today, a divorced mother of two teenage girls, Koren finds it important, at least occasionally, to travel in order to further her professional development.

"Obviously, the kids don't like it and you wonder what's going on in your absence," said Koren. "I

"You have to play by the same rules as men or women without families and you just have to find a way to get the work done"

kept in touch by e-mail and I really splurge on the phone bill. And, since we're religious, I do everything I can to avoid being away over Shabbat."

When she worked in the US for

Bell Laboratories, she found the type of travel that was required was less demanding. "In the US many of the trips can be taken within the same day or overnight — even New York to Chicago or the West Coast is doable with night flights. But being in Israel makes it harder."

But for those women who are willing to make the sacrifices and go the distance, the rewards can be significant. Sue Wasserman, 47, was named managing director of 3M Israel, after a successful career based in Minneapolis working for the parent company.

She credits her ability to stick with her career, despite the heavy travel demands while her children were growing up, to her husband, attorney Mark Wasserman.

As a 3M manager, she has consistently spent anywhere from a quarter to half of her time on the road. "It's always been difficult for me, no matter what age the children are. It doesn't matter if you are going away for three days or two weeks you feel like you are missing something important in their lives."

Even though her husband was on the scene while she was gone, she worked hard to plan her family's life in her absence. "I would always think ahead, how many meals needed to be in the freezer,

whether there was a supply of diapers." But, she says, the practical hardships were more easily solved than the emotional ones. Her children, a daughter aged 17 and 15-year-old boy and girl twins did not always make it easier. "As the children get older they can really make you feel guilty. It's a difficult test to put it out of your mind and tell yourself that this is what you have to do and know that your children will benefit from it."

From Wasserman's perspective, the corporate world went through something of a conversion about a decade ago, attempting to give working women extra attention and support, and make allowances for domestic responsibilities. But that, she believes, has lessened.

"Today, I would say it is much like it was when I was coming up. You have to play by the same rules as men or women without families and you just have to find a way to get the work done." Despite how hard it was to miss days and weeks with her children, if she had to do it over again, Wasserman says, "I wouldn't do it any other way. When I come back from the trips, I appreciated my home and family even more. True, the children can make it really difficult, but you just have to remind them that even though it isn't easy for them, they are gaining more independence, and point out how they are doing just fine even when you are away."

And how does one know when things aren't fine? When travel has become excessive? "The kids themselves are the best gauge," says Wasserman, speaking from experience. "Believe me, if you are gone too much, they'll let you know."

Dealing with absence

Psychologist Robert Chernick, who specializes in children and adolescents, says that there is plenty that traveling parents can do to try to ease the pain of going abroad, aside from promising to return home loaded with gifts. In Herzliya Pimnah and Ra'anana, where Chernick practices, there are families in which fathers are overseas nearly every week, returning to Israel on weekends, and where many mothers travel as well. "If the parent who is traveling wants to be kept current on what is going on in his child's life, there is really no reason these days why he can't," he says. "We live in an electronic world and the possibilities of maintaining contact are plentiful: E-mail, faxes, and one can always pick up the telephone. For some people who travel it is 'out of sight, out of mind.' They don't make the effort to call, for example, in the morning when their child wakes up."

The more preparation taken before the parent leaves on a trip, particularly a long trip, he says, the easier it is for children to handle. "Many parents, especially mothers, go to a great deal of effort to prepare. I've seen mothers make a calendar for their child, where the dates when they will be away are clearly marked. They are strict about calling at a set time every day. In this way, the mother creates a stability that she would be providing if she were physically present."

In other families, however, "there are parents who travel, who simply disappear and don't see to the child's emotional needs. This often evolves into demonstrations of apathy on the child's part, where they act as if they don't care that their parent is leaving. But, of course, they really care deeply." Dr. Chernick notes that the person whose life is most affected by business travel is the parent who stays behind. "It is a major burden to take on the role of the sole custodial parent," he says.

Sharon Weil gave up a job which demanded travel on her part when her daughter was born. But now she has to cope when her husband, Aaron, managing director of the PR and marketing firm Coast to Coast Communications has to attend conferences overseas.

"It seems to me that a lot of men who travel are completely oblivious to what their wives have to

deal with in their absence," says Aaron. "My office is near my home now, so I'm more aware of how hard it is for Sharon to get through the day and how difficult it must be without me, the other member of the team."

Weil says that he tries to minimize travel as much as he can, in order not to miss his daughter's development. "On a recent 10-day trip to Boston for a client, my daughter's vocabulary changed significantly. When I came back she was more conversant, more responsive than before. I missed the new words and those are moments that are lost forever." Dr. Chernick notes that the possibilities of maintaining contact are plentiful: E-mail, faxes, and one can always pick up the telephone. For some people who travel it is "out of sight, out of mind." They don't make the effort to call, for example, in the morning when their child wakes up.

Staron's survival strategy when she is alone is to organize. "You have to think two steps ahead and make sure everything is planned and ready. You plan your whole day out the night before, lay out your clothes and the child's clothes. You don't worry about the accumulating mess during the day; you deal with it after the baby is in bed. That's also when you finally get time to take a shower."

A sense of humor is also key for the grounded parent, points out Mark Wasserman, the husband of 3M executive Sue Wasserman. "I'll never forget one winter when Sue was in Japan for three weeks, and we had three children in diapers at home in Minnesota. In the middle of Sue's trip, I went skiing and broke my arm. So there I was, working and taking care of three small children alone with an arm in a cast. At the time, we lived in a house with a detached garage and so I had to shovel myself out using one hand. Housework was also a challenge. I remember having the kids hold the dishes up while I washed them with my good arm."

Wasserman says that maintaining a positive attitude under such stress is possible if all the ingredients are in place. "The first thing is you have to really love and support your spouse and their career, and you have to like your kids — not just love them, like being with them. The extra time with them should be a pleasure, not a burden. And it helps a lot, if the kids, like mine, are cooperative by nature."

— Allison Kaplan Sommer

Keep things private



By Ruth Mason

Our four-year-old daughter touches her private parts at what we feel are inappropriate times and places, such as in the living room when we have guests. We don't want to cause any complexes, but we feel embarrassed by her actions. Why does she do this? How can we deal with it?

Marcia Levine Shiro, M.A., child and adult therapist at the

Counseling Center for Women in Jerusalem and chief psychologist at Beit Hoveled, replies:

Although it's perfectly natural to masturbate at this or any age, it certainly makes all present uncomfortable. First, I would directly address the masturbation, acknowledging its existence. In a private talk with your daughter, you could say something like, "Oh, yeah, you're masturbating. That feels really good. There are parts of the body that feel especially good when touched." Then you can emphasize that while masturbation is pleasurable and not shameful, it's an activity that's done between you and yourself. Just as eating is confined to the table, masturbation is a private activity that should be confined to one's bedroom.

Sometimes masturbation soothes children when they are overstimulated. Does your daughter need more quiet time in gener-

al? Perhaps gentle holding and being read to or sung to?

Sometimes masturbation serves the function of raising a child's interest level when she is bored. In this case, you might think about what activities she may need to be involved in or what materials she may need to have available so that she is more interested in her environment and doesn't need to self-stimulate.

Sometimes children stimulate themselves because of a rash or infection; you might want to consult your doctor to check this out.

A word of caution: In rare cases, compulsive masturbation raises the index of suspicion about a child's being inappropriately touched. This doesn't mean that if your child is masturbating, you need to panic. It only means that in very extreme cases, it would be worthwhile consulting a professional.



By Batsheva Mink and David Brauner

Tons of onions and lots of shallots

Today we get down to the gritty-gritty of vegetable gardening. As we mentioned last week, even a small 3 m. x 3 m. patch is enough space to supply an average family with a surprising quantity of basic vegetables.

Winter vegetables are quite easy to grow. They generally take care of themselves, though occasional weeding is in order to keep things tidy.

Few gardeners are blessed with perfect soil. The challenge is how to improve the ground without spending a fortune.

You can start your soil-enrichment program by making a compost heap. All kinds of decayed vegetable matter may be used. Outer leaves of cabbage and lettuce, grass cuttings, fruit and vegetable peelings, etc. all make fine compost.

Avoid woody materials, animal matter (e.g., fish bones, etc.) and cooked foods, as these attract rodents and insects. Also, do not use anything that was sprayed with a herbicide (weed killer) or insecticide.

Turn over your compost with a shovel from time to time to speed up the rotting process. Letting compost dry out slows things down, so keep it wet for the decaying process to do its work. While you wait for your compost heap to fully "ripen," you may have to buy some compost from a garden center.

Turn over the soil of your plot thoroughly, digging in your compost as you go. The deeper you dig, the better your vegetables will grow. Then level the surface off nicely with a rake.

Now that we've entered the wet season, the watering requirements for the winter vegetables we describe below are minimal. You may need to top them up with an occasional burst of water during a dry spell between rains. And, of course, you must always water any vegetables (or flowers, for that matter) when you sow or plant, to start them off.

Gardening is like an iceberg - most of it is below the surface. In other words, people are not aware of most of the hard work, and what they see on top - the results - is only the smallest part.

ONIONS (*Allium cepa*; Family Alliaceae; Heb. *batzal*)

True onions are biennials, producing a bulb at the end of their first year, which is when we harvest them. However, the habit of biennialism is easily disturbed. In adverse weather conditions, there is a tendency to send up a seed-head (flower) prematurely, thus spoiling the plant as a vegetable.

Onions are highly responsive to the length of the day. While days are short in winter, they produce leaves and roots. But as soon as the daylight hours number 15, the onion concentrates on bulb formation.

Onions need deep, cool soil; moist, but not too wet. Also, the soil should not be too light (sandy) or too heavy (clay-like). The ground should be rich with plenty of compost, as onions are "greedy eaters."

Avoid using excessive nitrogen, as it will encourage the plants to continue to send out leaf growth when they should be turning to bulb (onion) formation. This in turn may cause them to run to seed, known as "bolting," or to become "thick necked" - that is, mostly sprout and little bulb.

An open, completely sunny position - no shade, if possible - is most suitable. If you are short of space in full sun, you can try growing onions under a tree that loses its leaves in the winter. By the time the leaves reappear in spring, the crop should be ready to harvest.

Sow onion seeds in drills - small furrows - spaced about 15 cm. apart. Thin out the young plants as they grow, and use the thinnings for spring onions.

If you are fortunate to find onion "sets" - that is, dwarf onion bulbs raised for the purpose of growing onions quickly - all the better. Spacing them about 18 cm. apart, press these into the surface of the rows spaced about 30 cm. apart.

Leave your onions in the ground until their tops turn yellow and die. This process can be speeded up by bending the tops over at the neck. Pull up the onions and allow them to dry on the ground. Only when the roots and leaves have completely dried and shriveled can they be put into storage.

LETTUCE (*Lactuca sativa*; Heb. *hassa*)

Lettuce is an annual salad veg-

etable, rich in vitamins, which can be grown all year round. Sow the seeds directly into the ground in drills about one cm. deep and cover lightly. Sowings should be staggered about every two weeks to maintain a constant supply.

If the ground is not ready when you want to plant, lettuce seeds can be sown in pots and transplanted later on. Transplanting is possible when lettuces reach 5-10 cm. high. Plant between 30 and 40 cm. apart each way.

When your lettuces start growing, thin them out. Crowding stunts their growth, encourages pests and may also make them "bolt." With lettuce, bolting, or going to seed, means that the plant sends up a long shoot with flowers, which eventually produce seeds. Bolting also results in bitter, inedible leaves.

Lettuces should be grown as quickly as possible. In hot weather they must be well watered. Lack of water is another cause of bolting.

Cut lettuces as soon as they reach maturity. It is best to cut them early in the morning when the dew is on the leaves.

Gardeners living in areas where frost and icy wintry winds are prevalent must give their lettuce some protection. Erecting clear plastic "tunnels" over the drills is an excellent solution.

CARROTS (*Daucus carota*; Heb. *gezer*)

Edible carrots are descended from the wild carrot (*Umbelliferae*), a poisonous member of the parsley family. Though in fact a biennial, the carrot plant is treated as an annual, grown for its sweet-tasting taproot.

Carrots vary considerably in length and habit of growth, depending on their variety. Quick-growing "young carrot" varieties are more suitable for home gardeners because these need less care and water than the larger, long-rooted kinds. Also, young carrots are far superior in taste to large carrots; however, the younger kinds do not store as well as the long-rooted varieties.

All carrots grow best in lightish (sandy), stone-free, free-draining soil which has been composted from a previous crop. In other words, carrots do not like to come into contact with fresh compost but rather with compost that was added to the soil for earlier crop, for example, runner beans. Very rich soil encourages carrots to "fork," thus making many small taproots per plant instead of one.

A complete fertilizer high in potash worked into the soil about 2 cm. deep is recommended.



For regular supplies of tasty young carrots, sow the seeds at two-week intervals from early September to early April. Sow in drills 2 cm. deep and fill in with a mixture of soil and peat moss, making sure the bed is level. Run the rows about 15 cm. apart and thin out the seedlings until they are about 12 cm. apart.

SHALLOTS (*Allium ascalonicum*; Heb. *betzaltul*)

As the Latin name suggests, this small edible bulb, prized by chefs the world over, is a native of the Ashkelon region. In fact, the English words "shallot" and "scallion" are derived from Old French corruptions of the name Ashkelon.

We have seen shallots for sale in some garden centers, as well as in a few larger supermarkets. They are just starting to make their appearance here. It is possible to get 10-20 shallots from a single plant, depending on how it is grown.

Instead of producing a single bulb, the shallot brings out clus-

ters of bulbs somewhat similar to garlic. Shallots can be grown from seed, but planting the "bulblets" is more common. Plant them 9 cm. apart, with 15 cm. between rows. The conditions needed for growing shallots are similar to those of true onions.

Shallots produce more leaf than onions do, and their bushy top growth makes weeding between the plants and rows more difficult. Harvest in the same way as we-

describe for onions, then separate the clusters to ensure complete drying. Once they are dry, store shallots in the same way as onions. Remember to save a few bulbs for next year's planting.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, P.O.B. 3943, Jerusalem 91039, or David Brauner, e-mail: morri@ashurcc.hu.ac.il



Heads 'N' Tails



By D'vora Ben Shaul

Noise can be an animal's pet peeve

Compared to our pets we humans are, if not hearing impaired, at least practically tone deaf. Dogs and cats hear much more than we do, and with greater acuity. They hear a range of sounds that are inaudible to us, and they have a greater ability to separate out a particular sound from a multitude of noises.

What's more, sounds mean different things to different species. The reaction of a dog or a cat may be far different from our own, and a dog's reaction may differ greatly from that of a cat when both bear the same sound.

We cannot know for certain just what an animal hears or how it interprets the sound, but from behavioral patterns we can see that they respond in different ways.

A reader recently reported that his cat always leaps onto the rim of the bathtub whenever he begins to run the water. The cat becomes agitated and emits a series of yowls as long as the water is swirling down the drain. It stops the minute the sound of the escaping water disappears. The reader says these yowls are specific to this situation and do not resemble any other sound the animal makes.

The same is true of many dogs that become agitated by what we

consider music. They will howl at certain notes and run away when others are played. This varies in different dogs but is shared by many. I once had a dog that got completely hysterical whenever I played the harmonica. While most people found the music pleasant, the dog would begin to bark in great agitation and even try to grab the harmonica with its mouth. I have no idea what these strange wails of mine represented to the dog, but they definitely disturbed him.

It also appears that cats' powers of vocalization are far greater than one would imagine. A blind musician once claimed that he could identify more than 100 different sounds his cat made. At one time this may have seemed far fetched to most people, but modern voice-print techniques have proven that the range of sounds a cat can produce is far greater than was formerly thought.

All of this must mean that dogs and cats, forced to live in the modern world, must feel they are surrounded by an almost unbearable din. Some animal behaviorists have even suggested that the so-called neurotic behavior of some house pets is actually a reaction to noise stress.



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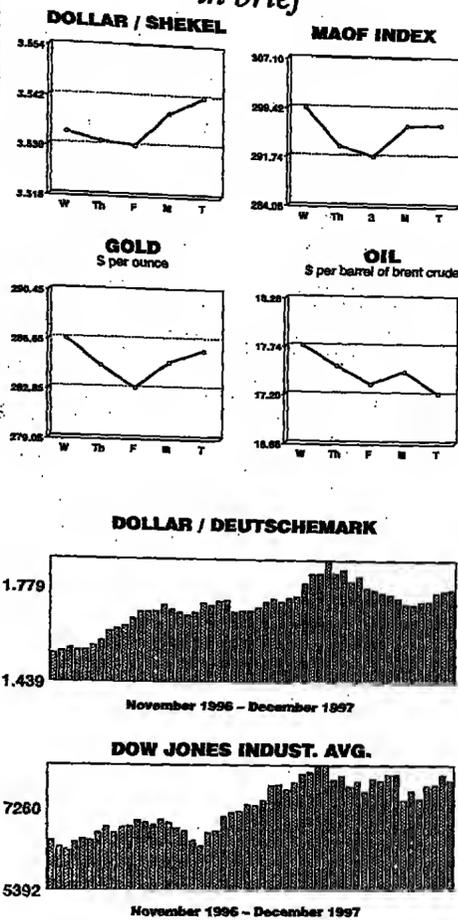
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DRIVE CAREFULLY

Handwritten note: *השנה הזו*

MARKETS

in brief



Nortel buys 20% in ArelNet for \$5m.

Nortel Communication Holdings, a subsidiary of Northern Telecom, acquired a 20 percent stake in Israel's ArelNet, a Yavne-based developer of networking systems, through a private placement of \$5 million, an ArelNet spokesperson said yesterday. One year after the completion of the deal, Nortel will have a two-year option to acquire Elron Electronic Industries' stake in ArelNet, which will total 16% after the transaction, as well as the option to increase its total holding to 51% via the acquisition of additional shares from parent company Arel. According to the agreement, Nortel also will serve as the exclusive distributor for some of ArelNet's products, including i-Fax, a computer-based fax solution. Earlier this year Northern Telecom bought 20% of Telrad Telecommunication and Electronic Industries for \$45m. *Jennifer Friedlin*

US rejects El Al-American Airlines agreement

The US Department of Transport has rejected El Al's application to enter a code-sharing agreement with American Airlines, El Al announced yesterday. The company described the US decision as "arbitrary," especially in view of the fact that it had approved a similar agreement between American Airlines and Saudia, the Saudi Arabian national airlines. *Haim Shapiro*

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PM creates emergency panel to tackle unemployment

By DAVID HARRIS and JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday announced the appointment of a committee to explore ways of reducing unemployment.

"We're not prepared to accept this blow as a strike from heaven that we can't fight," said Netanyahu.

Netanyahu's move came a day after the Employment Service released figures showing unem-

ployment had grown in November by 1.2 percent to 151,600.

The Central Bureau of Statistics said third quarter unemployment averaged a seasonally adjusted 8.1%, the highest rate in more than three years.

The number of unemployed in September was 179,000, up from 143,000 the previous year.

The committee, chaired by Moshe Leon, the new director-general of the prime minister's office, will also include directors-general from economic ministries, such as

Shmuel Staviv from the Treasury. It is expected to propose a plan within 30 days for unemployment blackspot, Ofakim, which figures show to suffer the nation's largest unemployment rate of 14.3%.

Committee members plan to visit the Negev development town on Monday, and make some on-the-spot recommendations.

Netanyahu said.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel have called unemployment Israel's

major economic worry, and have predicted that the jobless figure would continue to climb in 1998.

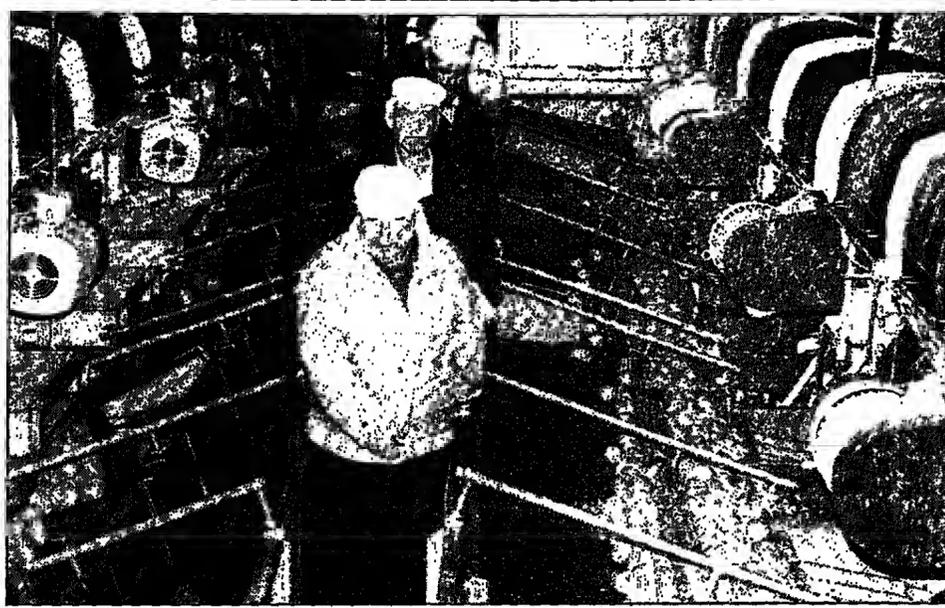
Experts have projected that unemployment would continue to grow in Israel until the leading industries make a transition to more profitable high-tech production.

Growth this year has been "disappointing" as has the rise in unemployment, the International Monetary Fund said in an interim report on the Israeli economy last month.

The report said Israel should learn from examples of other nations that whenever excess demand exists it is very difficult to put the economy back on a sustainable track without "some transitional pain."

A Treasury report published in July predicted unemployment would total 7.7% by the end of the year and 7.9% by December 1998.

The Treasury previously said that it could not give a precise forecast for 2000, but estimated that the figure would be between 6.8% and 11.4%.



Checking the squeeze on citrus producers

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan (front) visits the Prigat plant in Kibbutz Givat Haim yesterday, where he heard leaders of the Association of Kibbutz Industries complain that the price citrus growers are getting for fruit is so low, many are not bothering to pick it. Eitan promised to further investigate problems facing the citrus sector. *(Vered Peret)*

Ace: Non-Jewish labor complies with Shabbat law

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

In an effort to bypass the Work and Rest Law, the Ace Buy and Build do-it-yourself hardware chain has instituted a policy of hiring non-Jews to work on Shabbat, CEO Ofer Carmel said yesterday.

On Monday, the Labor Court imposed an unprecedented NIS 120,000 fine on the company for using Jewish labor to operate on Shabbat.

"We found a way to obey the law and still operate three of our stores on Shabbat; we hire Druse and Arabs and non-Jewish Russians to work and offer minimal, buy-it-yourself service," said Carmel.

The fine reflects the new owners' accountability for past transgressions as well as the Labor Ministry's stepped up efforts to enforce compliance with the Shabbat Law. The new Shabbat policy has been in effect for a year, in acknowledgement of the company's effort, the judge imposed less than the maximum penalty, Carmel said.

Under the law, the company could have been fined NIS 9,500 for each employee, which would have resulted in a NIS 400,000 fine, Carmel said.

"This is a relief for us," he said. One year ago, Buy and Build's

new owners, Clal and Super-Sol, began implementing the Shabbat policy, to obey the law while maintaining Shabbat hours at the Gan Shmuel, Sbefayim and Bilu stores, Carmel said. Eight other outlets remain closed on Shabbat.

The fine is the latest in a number of rulings that support Shabbat observance in the business sector.

In October, an arbitrator determined that movie theaters and a restaurant in the Africa Israel's Ramat Aviv shopping mall are to remain closed on Shabbat.

The arbitrator, retired Supreme Court justice Dov Levin, determined that despite the fact that the contract between McDonald's and Africa Israel, the opening of its fast food restaurant is contingent upon the opening of the cinemas.

While the Shabbat movie by-law is not enforced in Tel Aviv, the law is still on the books, the judge pointed out. He suggested that the municipality adapt the law to the lifestyle of the city's

inhabitants.

Earlier this year, when Lev Leviev bought control of Africa

Israel, the Orthodox businessman decided to close the shopping center on Shabbat.

Yishai's strict enforcement

The Labor Court fined Ace Buy and Build for opening stores on Saturdays. The fine was relatively high - NIS 120,000 - compared to those issued for similar violations in the past.

For years, the policy of Labor and Social Affairs ministers was to ignore violations of the Work and Rest Law, which says that workers must be given off on their day of rest: Saturday for Jews, Sunday for Christians and Friday for Moslems.

Now the ministry is under the aegis of Shas, and Minister Eli Yishai has declared he plans to enforce the law vigorously. This means that unless a permit is obtained for employing Jews on Saturday, businesses that do so will be subject to prosecution.

Businesses wishing to open on Shabbat may do so by employing Druse, Moslem or Christian

employees on that day. It is an inconvenience for the business owners, but it is not beyond their ability.

So, once the businesses adjust to the rules of the game and bring in non-Jews to work on Saturdays, they need not worry about Yishai's strict enforcement plans. Shabbat shoppers will still be able to throng to the shopping centers - at least those in locales that don't have by-laws which forbid the opening of businesses on Shabbat, no matter who is working there.

Most cities have such by-laws, though in some, establishments like cinemas and restaurants are exempt. But most regional councils do not have these regulations. The Ace case related to stores located in just such suburban areas.

The writer is a professor of law at the Hebrew University.

BACKGROUND

By SHIMON SAITREET

Almost 3,000 job cuts at Nabisco

NEW YORK - RJR Nabisco Holdings Corp. said yesterday it will restructure its tobacco operations and cut almost 3,000 jobs, resulting in a fourth-quarter charge of about \$310 million, or 95 cents a share, in order to enhance competition and improve

its earnings outlook.

The reorganization will include the elimination of 2,600 jobs from its international operations, R.J. Reynolds International, and includes cutting 190 full-time and 200 seasonal jobs from its domestic R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. operations, the company said.

The restructuring is expected to generate \$170m. a year in pretax savings beginning in 2000, though it will reduce the company's pretax income by about \$390m., the company said.

Goldman, Sachs & Co. analyst Marc Cohen said he wasn't expecting a move this fast from the New York-based company, adding that some action had been expected because of the move toward tobacco legislation. Cohen also said he expects every company in the industry to examine its operations.

"The comprehensive legislation could cut demand substantially over a five- and 10-year time frame in the US," Cohen said. "US

cigarette manufacturers are going to have to examine their operations to make sure they are as efficient as possible and sized to (supply) a smaller market than there's been in the past."

Internationally, the reorganization also includes changes in distribution and the disposal of non-strategic assets, the company said. Domestically, RJR also said it will close a leaf processing facility.

Shares of the consumer products company fell 3/16 to 36 3/8 on Monday.

In 1996 Nabisco cut about 6,000 jobs and took a charge of \$428m. That year investors Carl Icahn and Bennet LeBow launched a proxy fight to win control of RJR Nabisco saying they would spin off the food makers. The attempt failed, but Icahn persisted in calling for a spinoff.

The Orco cookie celebrated its 55th birthday in 1997, and Nabisco agreed to buy snack-food maker Conrums for an undisclosed sum. *(Bloomberg)*



STATE OF ISRAEL THE NATURAL GAS PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The Government of Israel previously announced an invitation (IPQ NG102/97) for experienced international gas companies or consortia of companies, to prequalify for participation in a Tender to be published at a later date for the selection of a company, or a consortium of companies, to (i) design, finance, build, operate and maintain the natural gas transmission and distribution systems of Israel; and (ii) purchase natural gas for, and sell it to, customers in Israel other than the Israel Electric Corporation.

The date of the mandatory oral briefing to take place in Tel Aviv, Israel to those parties which will purchase the PQ documents, has been changed to January 14, 1998 at 10:00 a.m.

Copies of the original announcement will be provided on request to The Natural Gas Project Management, the Jewish Agency building, 17 Kaplan St., (third floor, room 308) Tel Aviv 64734, tel: 972-3-8914281

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

The Business Scene

By Greer Fay Cashman



Finance Minister Yashov Neeman (left) and Communications Minister Lior Hareli had big smiles on their faces when Neeman, chairman of the board Zvy Tapoohi and director general Ami Arel presented them with Bezeq's 1996 final dividend check for NIS 49,330,492. The total dividend was NIS 197.8 million.

The State of Israel continues to be Bezeq's largest shareholder, with 53.2% of the company's stock. Bitan's Cable and Wireless, which owns 10%, received NIS 7.1 million, while the remaining dividend was distributed among other smaller shareholders.

Rita Zomer-Granat has been promoted to branch manager of the Hifa division of Ofek Securities & Investments in place of David Tzipori. Zomer-Granat, 30, who has a bachelor's degree in economics from Haifa University and a master's degree in business management from the Haifa Technion, was previously northern district marketing manager and investment manager.

Israeli-German businessman Alexander Resler, who owns the Princess Hotel, Eilat, celebrated the fifth anniversary of the hotel and the second anniversary of its Princess Club with a huge bash attended by many celebrities including model and television star Gal Gadot. Resler is investing some \$100m in the construction of

After recovering strongly following the Hong Kong shock, the markets are in some turmoil again. Things in the Far East are worse than most had thought and, more seriously, they are spilling over to companies and economies in the West.

While there was a general uncertainty about the fallout from Hong Kong in the West, and economic commentators talked vaguely about the possibility at some point of the Far East buying fewer Western goods and services, no one expected to see anything terribly tangible any time soon.

Yet within a matter of weeks Ortel, one of the world's leading and most highly regarded software companies with strong representation worldwide, was reporting disappointing results and citing an almost complete halt in orders from the Far East as the reason. The consequences were swift and merciless. Investors, who were sitting on good gains, were hardly going to let their portfolios slip in value so close to the end of the year (when all kinds of money managers have their performance measured and their bonuses determined), rushed to dump technology stocks.

Anything with significant perceived exposure to the Far East - computer and semiconductor related stocks, in many cases - were dealt with especially brutally. Ortel, which makes inspection equipment for the semiconductor industry, lost 13% of its value Thursday. The DSP Group has more than halved in value over the last few weeks. Few, though, can match Electronics for Imaging, which plummeted 24.125 to 14.875 on Friday. The company said it expects fourth-quarter earnings of just 6 cents per share, excluding acquisition charges, far off the 49 cents Wall Street was expecting from the printing-system designer.

Investment firms have responded in kind. Lehman Brothers lowered its rating for EFI to "neutral" from "buy". Prudential Securities lowered its rating to "hold" from "buy" before reversing its decision due to the extent of the stock's decline. The company, which had so far delivered only positive surprises to investors, finally disappointed and was instantly stripped of the premium rating which it had previously been accorded.

My sense is that there is a lack of discrimination among investors and a degree of overreaction. The stocks of some very good companies have been hit very hard to an extent unjustified even by a deterioration in their short-to-medium term business prospects. There is no way that on Friday EFI was sud-

Playing it cool

Topsy-turvy markets can result in good bargains

By NEIL COHEN

denly worth 35% of what it was worth Thursday. I'm not saying, "pile in, there are bargains to be had" because sentiment and stock prices may yet deteriorate further, and there has been a real deterioration in business prospects. However, I think there are plenty of stocks whose purchase at current prices will generate good returns for patient investors.

The TASE has actually been hit less hard than foreign exchanges. There's less technology around (almost all the technology stocks are traded in New York), the market was closed for a good while during the strike, and the perception of how much the Far Eastern drama is going to affect us has been more limited and taken longer to filter through.

So I think that unless US stocks recover pretty smartly, we are going to see more pain in the local market, at least in the short term, even as the New York-traded Israeli technology stocks may be presenting some bargains at current prices.

Another anomaly this past week has been the lack of impact from Europe's banking mega-merger on the local financial services sector. Grated, Bank Leumi shares were pretty active, but this had nothing to

PERSONAL FINANCE

do with the rapid liberalization of the economy meant that capital flows (foreign investors putting money into and taking them out of the country) were very active. At the first signs of trouble, money rapidly flowed out, exacerbating the liquidity shortage, the won weakened, increasing external debt in won terms, thereby putting pressure on the country's currency reserves and setting a vicious cycle in motion. Fortunately, Israel has plenty of equity capital and is not particularly dependent on short-term debt. I think that Wall Street may well recover towards the end of December or in early January as a result of the January effect, whereby many investors sell stocks in December to establish tax losses before the year end only to reinvest subsequently, causing stocks to rise. In the past this reentry into the market took place in January, but after the January effect was identified, many investors figured the way to profit was to get in ahead of the January effect, thus bringing it forward to December.

While I still believe the shekel is due to weaken significantly before we're too much older, we are almost certainly not at risk of the kind of shock that South Korea suffered. To put that into its perspective, the South Korea meltdown was a liquidity crisis. The country suffers from an acute shortage of long-term capital, and far too many things were financed

NEIL'S PORTFOLIO

Table with columns: No. of shares, Cost/basis, Total cost, Current price, Current value. Lists various stocks like Citrus Properties convertible, Teva, Bank Leumi, etc.

by short-term debt. In addition, the rapid liberalization of the economy meant that capital flows (foreign investors putting money into and taking them out of the country) were very active. At the first signs of trouble, money rapidly flowed out, exacerbating the liquidity shortage, the won weakened, increasing external debt in won terms, thereby putting pressure on the country's currency reserves and setting a vicious cycle in motion. Fortunately, Israel has plenty of equity capital and is not particularly dependent on short-term debt. I think that Wall Street may well recover towards the end of December or in early January as a result of the January effect, whereby many investors sell stocks in December to establish tax losses before the year end only to reinvest subsequently, causing stocks to rise. In the past this reentry into the market took place in January, but after the January effect was identified, many investors figured the way to profit was to get in ahead of the January effect, thus bringing it forward to December.

Japan okays \$76.9 billion financial plan

By KYOKO KIMURA

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party approved plans to raise up to \$76.9 billion to support the financial industry and cut taxes to spur growth.

The measures are part of the party's efforts to revive an economy that saw the failures of two banks and two brokerages last month. Party officials said they would release a broader plan, the third in three months, as early as tomorrow. Stocks fell after the release of each of the earlier plans. "The first two stimulus packages haven't undone the damage. It's difficult to be optimistic about the third," said Paul Migliorato, senior manager at Jardine Fleming Securities Ltd.'s institutional sales department.

Still, shares of banks rose after the party yesterday released details of its plan aimed at the ailing financial industry.

The party proposed using the \$76.9 billion to guarantee bank deposits. The funds could also be used to buy bank shares.

Under the financial industry proposal, the government would authorize the sale of up to \$76.9 billion of bonds to shore up the capital of the Deposit Insurance Corp. The corporation, set up by the government and Japanese banks, guarantee deposits at member institutions.

Support for the plan rose following the recent failures of Hokkaido Tokai Bank Ltd., a nationwide lender, Yamaichi Securities Co., Japan's fourth largest brokerage, Tokai City Bank Ltd., and Sanyo Securities Co.

Japan's banks are saddled with at least \$214 billion in irrecoverable loans left over from the asset-inflated bubble of the late 1980's. The government will introduce stiffer rules for assessing debt next April, and that may inflate the amount of bad debt on bank's balance sheets.

Japanese banks and brokerages have seen borrowing costs rise following the November failures. The LDP's financial stabilization measures, and bank shares were bought on that, said Takeshi, CMA fund manager at Taiyo Investment Trust and Management Co.

The LDP also proposed tax cuts worth \$6.3 billion on corporate income, real estate and securities transactions.

The party proposed a 3 percentage-point cut in the national corporate tax rate from 37.5% and a 1 percentage-point cut in local corporate taxes from 6-12%. Corporate taxes on small companies will be cut to 25%.

(Bloomberg Business News)

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table with columns: Fund's name, net asset value, redemption price, monthly yield, 1997 yield, NIS assets. Includes FLEXIBLE and SHARES categories.

Table with columns: Fund's name, net asset value, redemption price, monthly yield, 1997 yield, NIS assets. Includes various international and domestic funds.

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Windies beat India, meet England in final

SHARJAH (Reuters) - West Indies won a place in Friday's final of the Champions Trophy against England when they beat India by 41 runs in the final qualifying match yesterday.

India paid the price for their two earlier defeats which left them to score 230 off 45 overs to qualify on net run rate.

"The pressure got to us," their captain Sachin Tendulkar admitted after he had been bowled out of the ground when he was run out.

"I don't blame the fans," he said. "After all we lost three matches here and they have their feelings." India lost their last nine wickets for 92 in 14 overs after opener Saurav Ganguly had scored 70 off 94

balls with five fours and a six. Strangely, for a team that has built its reputation on pace over the last 20 years, the West Indies stars were three spinners.

Carl Hooper took four for 37 with his off-spin, part-time leg spinner Chanderpaul collected three tail-end wickets and Rawl Lewis had the wicket of Navjot Sidhu as well as a hand in the run-outs of Tendulkar and Mohammad Azharuddin.

Stuart Williams, who scored 77 in the defeat of Pakistan and 22 as the West Indies lost to England, hit his first one-day international century with an unbeaten 105 off 149 balls with 10 fours to form the basis of the

West Indies score. He rarely took chances but his solid defence should have allowed the stroke makers to flourish.

Instead the Indian attack, boosted by the introduction of paceman Venkatesh Prasad, cast a tight rein on all the batsmen.

Off-spinner Rajesh Chauhan had the important wicket of Brian Lara in the over after he had threatened mayhem with 14 runs off the bowling of Anil Kumble.

Lara greeted leg-spinner Kumble by hitting two fours and a six off his first over. But in the following over he was caught by Kumble off Chauhan for 23.

Bet. Jerusalem, Mac. TA reach Toto Cup final

By ORI LEWIS

The Toto Cup final next week will sport two of the most important club names in local soccer, following yesterday's semi-final victories for Betar Jerusalem and Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Tel Aviv beat Hapoel Kfar Sava 2-0 in the early game, and Betar overcame Hapoel Beit She'an 3-1 in the extra time in the late fixture of the doubleheader held at the National Stadium in Ramat Gan.

Had the weather been warmer, the 3,000-odd spectators for the first game might have felt able to fall asleep, as league cellar-dwellers Maccabi Tel Aviv and mid-table Hapoel Kfar Sava gave them little reasons to concentrate on the action. But 20 minutes from the end, the game came to life as Maccabi went ahead when Avi Nimni latched onto a cross from the right from Ofer Levy to bury the ball from close range.

Seven minutes later, the result was settled when Sergei Gerasimov, a CSKA Moscow player on trial with Maccabi, beat Kfar Sava keeper Eran Seinzinger.

Betar recovered from a 1-0 deficit to beat Beit She'an in extra time and won 3-1. The Beit She'anis were given some hope when their Georgian midfielder, Gala Panchulidze, put them ahead with 25 minutes gone, but the Jerusalemites hit back through Nir Sivilia, who leveled on the stroke of halftime after being set up by Isran Pishont.

Only in extra time did the crowd, which by now had swelled to 6,000, begin to see Betar pull ahead. Shai Holtzman proved his value with a goal in the 104th minute, and goal in the 104th minute, and Pishont himself sealed the score line in the dying seconds of the match.

Betar Jerusalem and Maccabi Tel Aviv will contest the final at the National Stadium next Tuesday afternoon.

SPORTS

in brief

'Post' trophy goes to Ramat Hasharon quartet

The final round of the Annual Max Spitz Charity Day was played off at Ramat Gan with players from all of Israel's nine Clubs competing for *The Jerusalem Post* Trophy.

In a mixed four competition, the Ramat Hasharon team of Josh Eckstein, Herzl Dunsky, Jaffa Lavine and Paula Kaplan took the trophy with a 3-2 shot difference, narrowly edging out Arye Keren's Ramat Gan team by two shots.

In fitting words, Jack Rabin, a past president of the National Bowling Association referred to the game to Israel in the South African Max Spitz who brought the trophy to Israel in the early 1950's and served as national president for 30 years. Proceeds of over NIS4,000 raised at the competition, which was inaugurated in 1984, will go to the Jerusalem Post Toy Fund, the Foresake Me Not Fund, and the Welcome Home Fund. *Norman Spiro*

Amsterdam, Paris, Stockholm to stage cup finals

GENEVA (Reuters) - Amsterdam will host the European Cup final on May 20, Europe's governing body UEFA said yesterday. But the Dutch will have to work out conflicting commercial obligations within the next 10 days before receiving final approval. UEFA said.

The governing body also announced that the UEFA Cup final, which will be a one-match contest for the first time this season, will be played on May 6 at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris. The Cup Winners' Cup, set for May 13, will be played at Stockholm's Rasunda stadium. The Super Cup final will be contested in Monaco on August 28, UEFA said.

Former Chelsea midfielder Hudson 'critical'

LONDON (Reuters) - Former England international Alan Hudson was said to be in a "critical condition" by a hospital spokesman after undergoing a 14-hour emergency operation yesterday.

Hudson, who played for Chelsea, Arsenal and Stoke, was involved in a car accident on Monday evening while walking home in London. He was admitted to the Royal London Hospital with internal and head injuries.

His son Alan junior said the family had been prepared for the worst but the signs were now more hopeful.

Dean Smith honored by 'Sports Illustrated'

CHAPEL HILL, NC (Reuters) - Dean Smith, who ended his 36-year coaching career at North Carolina with the most wins in college basketball history, was named Sportsman of the Year Tuesday by *Sports Illustrated* magazine.

Smith became the fourth coach to receive the honor, awarded annually since 1954, joining John Wooden (1972), Joe Paterno (1986) and Don Shula (1993).

Smith finished with 879 coaching victories, surpassing the 876 NCAA tournament victories - more than any other coach - from a record 27 appearances in the post-season championship.

Holloake set to lead England in Caribbean one-dayers

SHARJAH (Reuters) - Adam Holloake, who has led England's cricketers to the final of the Champions Trophy, is expected to be named as captain for the one-day series in West Indies next year, sources close to the camp said yesterday.

England coach David Lloyd has said that the "core of the team playing here" will make up the one-day side in the Caribbean when five one-day matches will be played in March and April following the Test series. "There will be an announcement sooner rather than later, probably next week," Lloyd said.

The position of captain for the one-day games was left vacant when the squad for West Indies was named in September. Mike Atherton, who is not in Sharjah, will captain the Test team.

It was intended that Champions Cup would be a trial for Holloake and he has passed with flying colors as England have won all three of their matches on the way to clinching a place in the final.

"What has impressed me has been his spirit shown by the side," said Lloyd. "They like being in one another's company and that's a great start. Holloake has been the right batsman for the job here." Lloyd singled out Matthew Elliott, the 33-year-old Kent all-rounder, for special praise. "He might be a bit older than the rest but that has never been a factor as far as I am concerned," said the coach. "He has been on the fringe of selection ever since I took charge 18 months ago and he bowls every ball as if his life depends on the outcome."

Warne upset over weight question

MELBOURNE (Reuters) - Australia leg-spinner Shane Warne, showing signs of sensitivity about his weight, stormed out during a publicity appearance yesterday after being asked about his growing waistline.

Warne was attending the unveiling of a waxwork of himself in Melbourne when a question about the model's noticeably slimmer appearance visibly upset him.

Warne snapped: "That's why I don't answer any questions from you blokes." As he walked from the stage, ending a very brief and abruptly curtailed appearance. According to recent local newspaper reports, Australia coach Geoff Marsh has become concerned about Warne's weight, asking the bowler to monitor his diet.

Sydney's *Sunday Telegraph* said Warne was more than six kilograms above his ideal match weight.

Brazil eliminate Mexico from Confederations' Cup

RIYADH (Reuters) - Brazil ended Mexico's slim hopes of a Confederations' Cup semifinal place with a 3-2 win yesterday.

The result left Brazil finish top of group A with Australia second, despite losing 1-0 earlier to Saudi Arabia. The two go through to Friday's semifinals.

Mexico needed a draw to qualify and played a defensive game for the first 40 minutes when Pavel Pardo brought down Falvio Conceicao and Romario converted the resultant penalty.

A more attacking approach enabled Luis Hernandez to set up an equaliser after 25 minutes. Cuauhtemoc Blanco tapped home.

But Brazil regained the advantage when Mexican defender Francisco Gabriel missed a loose ball in his own penalty area and Denilson snapped it up to score on 58 minutes.

Defender Junior Baiano added a third after a storming run, cutting inside and hammering home from a tight angle eight minutes later.

Mexico gave themselves a glimmer of hope in the final minute when substitute Ramon Ramirez curled a free-kick around the Brazilian wall and past stationary goalkeeper Rogério.

But they ran out of time in their quest to jump above the Australians in the standings on goal difference.

Referee Ian McLeod of South Africa was substituted at halftime after injuring his jaw bumping into the back of a Mexican player. He was taken to hospital and replaced by Uo Prasert Pirom of Thailand.

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CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Rafi Kadishson leads the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra-IBA in Music from the Movies with works by John Williams, Henry Mancini, Nino Rota and others...

You can still hear Estonian conductor Arvo Volmer lead the Haifa Symphony Orchestra in Frates by Arvo Part and the fourth (The Inextinguishable) symphony by Nielsen...

The chamber-music series Tones and Colors in the Gallery continues tonight (8:30) at the Eretz Israel Museum in Tel Aviv with the Troubadour Quartet singing a varied program ranging from Dowland to Ben-Haim and Lennon and McCartney...

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

When the Wind Blows (Channel 8 at 9 p.m.) is a full-length animated film created in England in 1988 by Jimmy T. Murakami. The cartoon chronicles the trials of a naive retired couple who prepare for the coming nuclear holocaust...

A profile of Neil Simon (ITV 3 [33], 8:45 p.m.) - one of America's most successful playwrights - includes interviews with some of the many stars who have appeared in his shows...



Boris Berman plays Brahms's first piano concerto tonight and tomorrow at the Haifa Auditorium.

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Mark Ravenhill's newsmaking Shopping and F***ing, directed by Max Stafford-Clark and performed by his Out of Joint theater company, indicates the rootless, loveless, transactional '90s...

TV

- CHANNEL 1: 6:30 News flash, 6:31 News in Arabic, 6:45 Good Morning Israel... CHANNEL 2: 6:15 Today's programs, 6:30 Rupert Bear, 7:00 Coffee with Tel-Ad...

CABLE

- ITV 3 (33): 22:00 The Ultimate Lie, 22:05 Swearing Allegiance... CHANNEL 8: 6:00 Open University, 6:05 A Healthy Body, 6:35 The Jewel in the Crown...

PRIME TIME TV

Table with columns for time slots (19:30, 20:00, 20:30, 21:00, 21:30, 22:00, 22:30, 23:00) and rows for various TV channels and programs.

7:00 Oprah Winfrey, 8:30 Mind Your Language, 9:00 Nine to Five, 9:30 The Jewel in the Crown...

WEATHER: Map of Israel and surrounding regions with weather forecasts for various cities like Jerusalem, Haifa, and Tel Aviv.

WINNING CARDS: In yesterday's Milal Hapayis daily chance drawing, Q-K-K-J-K, 9-7-0-7.

WINNING NUMBERS: In yesterday's daily Lotto drawing, 12 16 23 32 34 49 5.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: 1 Remarkably neat, trim disciplinarian (8), 6 Laird back about sergeant-major causing depression (9), 9 Stays determined to pursue the French horn (6)...

QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword puzzle grid with clues: 1 Pear wins (5), 4 Range (5), 10 Evident (7), 11 Bunk (5), 12 Was mistaken (5), 13 Everlasting (7), 15 Noble Italian family (4), 17 Italian island (5), 19 Jumped (5), 21 Unbeliever (5), 22 Unbeliever (5), 23 Egg-white (7), 24 Code of beliefs (5), 25 Vamp (5), 26 Fearful (7), 31 Chaos (5), 32 Large antelope (5).

JORDAN TV

- 14:00 Holy Koran, 14:10 Johnny Quest, 15:00 Art of the Fender, 15:40 Munsters Today, 16:00 Border Town, 16:30 Neighbors, 17:00 Secret of the Family, 17:20 Des Chiffres et Des Lettres, 18:00 Le Journal, 19:15 News headlines.

JERUSALEM CINEMATHEQUE

- SMITH'S Sense of Snow 5, 7:15, 9:45, 11:15, 12:45, 14:15, 15:45, 17:15, 18:45, 20:15, 21:45, 23:15, 24:45, 26:15, 27:45, 29:15, 30:45, 32:15, 33:45, 35:15, 36:45, 38:15, 39:45, 41:15, 42:45, 44:15, 45:45, 47:15, 48:45, 50:15, 51:45, 53:15, 54:45, 56:15, 57:45, 59:15, 60:45, 62:15, 63:45, 65:15, 66:45, 68:15, 69:45, 71:15, 72:45, 74:15, 75:45, 77:15, 78:45, 80:15, 81:45, 83:15, 84:45, 86:15, 87:45, 89:15, 90:45, 92:15, 93:45, 95:15, 96:45, 98:15, 99:45, 101:15, 102:45, 104:15, 105:45, 107:15, 108:45, 110:15, 111:45, 113:15, 114:45, 116:15, 117:45, 119:15, 120:45, 122:15, 123:45, 125:15, 126:45, 128:15, 129:45, 131:15, 132:45, 134:15, 135:45, 137:15, 138:45, 140:15, 141:45, 143:15, 144:45, 146:15, 147:45, 149:15, 150:45, 152:15, 153:45, 155:15, 156:45, 158:15, 159:45, 161:15, 162:45, 164:15, 165:45, 167:15, 168:45, 170:15, 171:45, 173:15, 174:45, 176:15, 177:45, 179:15, 180:45, 182:15, 183:45, 185:15, 186:45, 188:15, 189:45, 191:15, 192:45, 194:15, 195:45, 197:15, 198:45, 200:15, 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All six acquitted in Senna death trial

IMOLA, Italy (Reuters) - An Italian court yesterday acquitted Formula One team chief Frank Williams and five other defendants of manslaughter in a trial over the death of Brazilian racing driver Ayrton Senna in 1994.

None of the defendants was in the makeshift courtroom near the Imola circuit in northern Italy where Senna, one of Formula One's most thrilling champions, died in the San Marino Grand Prix on May 1, 1994.

But their legal teams smiled and congratulated each other when Judge Antonio Costanzo read the verdict. Italian law does not require defendants to attend a final hearing.

The five others charged were Williams team technical director Patrick Head, former chief designer Adrian Newey, Belgian race director Roland Brunynsraede, Imola track director Federico Bendinelli and former track official Giorgio Poggi.

Williams Grand Prix Engineering is pleased to confirm that Frank Williams, Patrick Head and Adrian Newey have been acquitted of all charges which were the subject of the Imola trial, the team said in a statement issued in London.

Last month prosecuting magistrate Maurizio Passarini made a dramatic about-turn when he asked for manslaughter charges against Williams and the three track officials to be shelved.

He said Williams, one of the most successful team directors in racing history, should be let off "for not having committed the offence." Senna had been driving a Williams car when he crashed at 220 kph.

Passarini asked for one-year suspended sentences for Head and Newey, saying their error had been "microscopic." But Costanzo decided to free all six men. The reasons for his decision will be published in 90 days, court officials said.

Under Italian law both the defence and prosecution can appeal a verdict. "Clearly we would hope that this matter will not be pursued any further," the Williams statement said.

Senna, three times world champion, died after his Williams' car hit a concrete wall. He suffered severe head injuries and died a few hours later. A life-sized bronze statue now marks the spot.

The trial began in February and the prosecution alleged a poor weld on Senna's steering column snapped as the Brazilian ace entered the notorious Tamburello curve, causing him to lose control of his car.

It was also alleged by the prosecution that the way the track was maintained could have contributed to the accident.

Both allegations were denied by the defendants. Senna died 24 hours after Austrian Roland Ratzenberger crashed in practice at Imola and was killed. They were the first race deaths in formula one for 12 years.

Motor racing's ruling body, the FIA, said it would study the verdict before commenting.

"The FIA has noted today's decision of the Imola court, but will not comment until it has examined the full text of the decision and studied its implications," it said in a statement.

Team chief Williams told the trial in October that his company did not believe that Senna's steering column broke.

In the weeks leading up to the fatal San Marino race, Senna's steering column was cut, expanded and re-welded to satisfy his demand for more space inside the cockpit.

Williams acknowledged to the court that Senna's car had been hard to handle and difficult to drive. But speaking to reporters after giving evidence in October, he said: "We'll probably never know what happened."

Rice sparkles in 49ers' triumph

But wide receiver reinjures knee, may miss playoffs

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Jerry Rice completed a remarkable return from a severe knee injury. Then, with his rebuilt leg aching, he watched the San Francisco 49ers' defense torment John Elway.

Rice, flashing his old form in the first half in an early return from knee surgery, beat double coverage to make a lunging touchdown catch in the 49ers' 34-17 win over Denver on Monday night.

He didn't play in the second half and afterward avoided reporters, but 49ers general manager Dwight Clark said Rice had suffered an injury to his knee unrelated to the previous injury and would undergo an MRI scan.

"We're going to do some imaging tomorrow and see if we can figure out exactly what it is," Clark said.

Bot two hours after the game it was reported that team sources said Rice has a cracked bone in the left knee and would probably miss all of the playoffs.

Unlike the August 31 season opener, when Rice agonized on the Tampa Bay turf with a shredded left knee, Rice bounced back up after taking a hard hit in the end zone from Steve Atwater after the second-quarter scoring catch.

"Was that fun or what?" San Francisco coach Steve Mariucci said, downplaying a bruise Rice suffered to his repaired knee on the touchdown catch. "He banged his knee in the ground. It's stable. It swelled just like after a week of practice. There's no real concern."

The defense took over in the second half, capitalizing on a disastrous outing by Elway, who had two interceptions and a fumble leading to 17 San Francisco points. He completed only 16 of 41 passes for 150 yards.

"They're not a blitzing team but they were tonight," Elway said. "You've got to be able to adjust to it. Tonight, I just made too many mistakes throwing the ball."

Merton Hanks' 55-yard interception return for a touchdown broke a 17-14 tie in the third quarter. Lee Woodall's 55-yard interception return set up Gary Anderson's second field goal and Kevin Greene sacked Elway, forcing a fumble that he returned 40 yards for the final score.

The win, on a night Joe Montana's No. 16 was retired by the 49ers, clinched home field in the National Conference playoffs for San Francisco (13-2) and also gave Kansas City the home field over Denver (11-4) in the American Conference.

"It seems like two seasons, maybe three," Young said. "Now we just have to get everyone healthy."

Denver, which lost Terrell Davis to a separated right shoulder in the first half, lost its second straight and heads into the playoffs as a wild card.

"I tried to walk it off and stay in and play, but my arm felt like it was falling off," Davis said. "It was just dangling there in the socket."

Rice's touchdown proved to be his last play. He spent the rest of the second quarter talking with team physician Michael Dillingham, who operated on Rice the day after the injury. Rice watched the second half from the sidelines with a bandage around what the 49ers said was a bruise to his surgically repaired knee.

Rice, who had three catches for



BACK IN THE SADDLE - Forty-niners WR Jerry Rice catches a second-quarter pass from QB Steve Young while being tackled by Broncos' cornerback Ray Crockett.

40 yards, was greeted by a wild ovation when he ran onto the field during pre-game introductions and another rousing cheer when he entered as the third receiver on the third play of the game.

"I wanted to get him the ball as quickly as possible," Young said. On San Francisco's second offensive series, he caught a 16-yard pass from Young and then made a diving

10-yard catch during the 92-yard march that Young finished by threading a 14-yard pass to Rice. He made the catch between Atwater and Darrien Gordon for San Francisco's first TD with 6:53 left in the second quarter.

"We all knew he would do it after watching him practice all week," linebacker Gary Plummer said. "That first play he lined up

was a huge emotional lift for us." The score was Rice's 166th career touchdown, an ongoing NFL record, and gave him 1,000 points for his career, the first non-kicker to reach that milestone. But Rice took a hard hit from Atwater and landed on his left knee. He headed to the sidelines favoring the knee slightly. With Rice on the sideline, Terry

Kirby scored from a yard out with 22 seconds left in the second quarter and San Francisco went in front 14-10 at halftime.

Vaughn Hebron, playing in place of the injured Davis, took a pitch and cut back across the field for a 46-yard gain to the San

Francisco 4. He scored on a fourth-down run from the 1, giving Denver a 17-14 lead.

Denver scored the game's first 10 points, getting a 4-yard scoring run from Davis two plays after Iheanyi Uwaezuko muffed a punt that was recovered at the San Francisco 6.

San Francisco retires Montana's No. 16

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - In the wild cheers of an adoring crowd and the sparkling flashes of hundreds of cameras, Joe Montana returned once more to the windswept field of San Francisco Bay as the 49ers retired his No. 16 jersey Monday night.

Introduced by former coach Bill Walsh, the man who drafted and developed him, Montana was clearly impressed by the reception.

"Back in 1979 when I first stepped on the field, I never imagined I'd be in this position tonight having my number retired," Montana said.

Broadcaster Al Michaels introduced a retrospective of Montana's career, calling the quarterback a "Bay Area icon and a man who has come to embody the 49ers franchise."

Eddie DeBarolo, who was the managing owner of the team for 20 years until two weeks ago when he stepped down to face allegations of gambling fraud in Louisiana, also praised Montana. But first he got his own cheers, pausing several times in his speech because of the cheers for him.

"This man has etched his place in NFL history as the greatest quarterback who has ever played the

game," DeBarolo said. San Francisco's third star went out of the game in 1979. Montana led the 49ers to the NFL's 10 titles, including Super Bowls in 1981 and 1984.

He was named the NFL's Most Valuable Player in 1979 and 1980. He was also named the NFL's Most Valuable Player in 1981 and 1984.

While he never reached the 500-yard mark with the 49ers, Montana was named the NFL's Most Valuable Player in 1979 and 1980.

Montana's career with the 49ers was marked by several key moments, including his leadership in the team's first Super Bowl victory in 1981.

Montana's legacy as a quarterback is cemented by his numerous accolades and his impact on the game of football.

His retirement ceremony was a fitting end to a remarkable career that spanned over two decades.

Final week, regular season. Saturday, December 20. Buffalo at Green Bay. St. Louis at Carolina. Sunday, December 21. Baltimore at Cincinnati. Chicago at Tampa Bay. Indianapolis at Minnesota. New Orleans at Kansas City. New York Giants at Dallas. Philadelphia at Washington. Pittsburgh at Tennessee. Atlanta at Arizona. Jacksonville at Oakland. New York Jets at Detroit. San Diego at Denver. San Francisco at Seattle. Monday, December 22. New England at Miami.

AMERICAN CONFERENCE. East: New England 9 6 0 .600 355 277. Miami 9 6 0 .600 327 313. N.Y. Jets 9 6 0 .600 338 274. Buffalo 6 9 0 .400 234 336. Indianapolis 3 12 0 .200 285 342. Central: Pittsburgh 11 4 0 .733 344 291. Jacksonville 10 5 0 .667 374 309. Tennessee 7 8 0 .467 317 304. Baltimore 6 8 0 .433 312 329. Cincinnati 6 9 0 .400 337 371. West: St. Louis 12 3 0 .800 350 219. Denver 11 4 0 .733 374 294. Seattle 7 8 0 .467 327 353. Oakland 4 11 0 .267 215 393. San Diego 4 11 0 .267 243 387.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE. East: Buffalo at Green Bay. St. Louis at Carolina. Sunday, December 21. Baltimore at Cincinnati. Chicago at Tampa Bay. Indianapolis at Minnesota. New Orleans at Kansas City. New York Giants at Dallas. Philadelphia at Washington. Pittsburgh at Tennessee. Atlanta at Arizona. Jacksonville at Oakland. New York Jets at Detroit. San Diego at Denver. San Francisco at Seattle. Monday, December 22. New England at Miami.

Marlins' dismantling continues as Kevin Brown traded to Padres

MIAMI (Reuters) - The Florida Marlins shipped star pitcher Kevin Brown to the San Diego Padres Monday, continuing to dismantle the team that won the World Series this year.

Brown, whose earned run average of 2.26 over the past two seasons was the lowest in baseball, was sent to San Diego for three minor leaguers - first baseman Derek Lee, right-handed pitcher Rafael Medina and left-handed pitcher Steve Hoff.

Brown went 16-8 with a 2.69 ERA last season, a year in which he threw a no-hitter at San Francisco on June 10 and appeared in his third All-Star Game. He won both of his starts against Atlanta in the National League Championship Series but lost twice in the World Series to the Cleveland Indians.

Brown is the team's career leader in strikeouts (389), shutouts (five) and complete games (11). In 1996, he was 17-11 with a major-league best 1.89 ERA for Florida.

The Georgia native has a career record of 121-92 with a 3.42 ERA in 278 career games for Texas, Baltimore and Florida. He won a career-high 21 games for the Rangers in 1992.

The 32-year-old Brown becomes the ace of a Padre staff that ranked 13th in the National League last season with a 4.98 ERA.

The Marlins had actively been shopping Brown, and more than a dozen teams showed interest in the right-hander.

Brown is just the latest player who has been let go in the club's fire sale, following the departures of star outfielder Moises Alou, longtime Marlins first baseman Jeff Conine, closer Robb Nen and outfielder Devon White - all unloaded since the

Marlins won the World Series in October. Starting pitcher Tony Saunders was lost in the expansion draft.

Marlins owner Wayne Huizenga, who is in the process of selling the club to a group headed by team president Don Smiley, has said the team must curb a payroll that exceeded \$53 million last season.

Cleveland signs Fryman. In his eight-year career with the Detroit Tigers, Travis Fryman never made it to the playoffs.

So excuse him for being glad to sign a contract with the AL champion Cleveland Indians, even if his salary is \$1.5 million less next season than it otherwise would have been.

The third baseman agreed Monday to a \$28m, five-year contract with the Indians.

"My eight years in the big leagues have been on teams that thought if they played .500 ball they had a great year," Fryman said. "I've never been in a situation where a team expected to win and expected to go to the World Series."

Royals, Dean Palmer agree on new pact. Free agent third baseman Dean Palmer will remain in Kansas City for at least another season after agreeing to terms with the Royals Monday on a one-year contract with a player option for the 1999 season.

The Royals acquired Palmer, who spent his first six-plus years in the majors with the Rangers, from Texas on July 25 for outfielder Tom Goodwin. He finished the year with a combined .256 average, 23 homers and 86 runs batted in for the two teams.



CALIFORNIA HERE I COME - Marlins' ace hurler Kevin Brown is dealt to San Diego.

67 countries apply to send 2,593 athletes to Nagano

NAGANO, Japan (Reuters) - A record 2,593 athletes from 67 countries are planning to compete in next February's Winter Olympics in Nagano, organizers said yesterday.

The US said it would send the most athletes - 207 - followed by host Japan with 166 and Switzerland with 163.

Bermuda, Brazil, Iran, Luxembourg and Uruguay plan to send one athlete each.

South Korea said it would send 47 athletes after announcing last week it was cutting back on the number because of the country's financial troubles.

The number of countries attending is equal to the record number of participating nations set at the Lillehammer Games four years ago. It also includes three countries which have never competed in the Winter Olympics before - Azerbaijan, Uruguay and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The record for a Winter Olympics of 1,801 competitors was set in Albertville in 1992. The second highest number of athletes was 1,739 in Lillehammer.

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